おやすみプンプン❼　浅野いにお

おやすみ
プンプン
❼
浅野
いにお

Asano Inio

7

Oyasumi Punpun

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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6巻までのあらすじ

とくになし。

登場人物

小野寺ブンブン
小野寺のブンブン。高校三年。

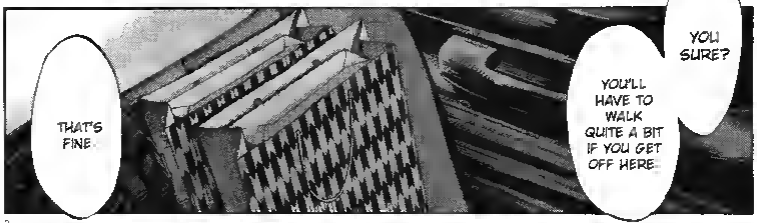
小野寺雄一
ブンブンの叔父。

小野寺翠
雄一の妻。

三村雪之進
300年ぶりに復活した伝説の巨人。

Chapter 68

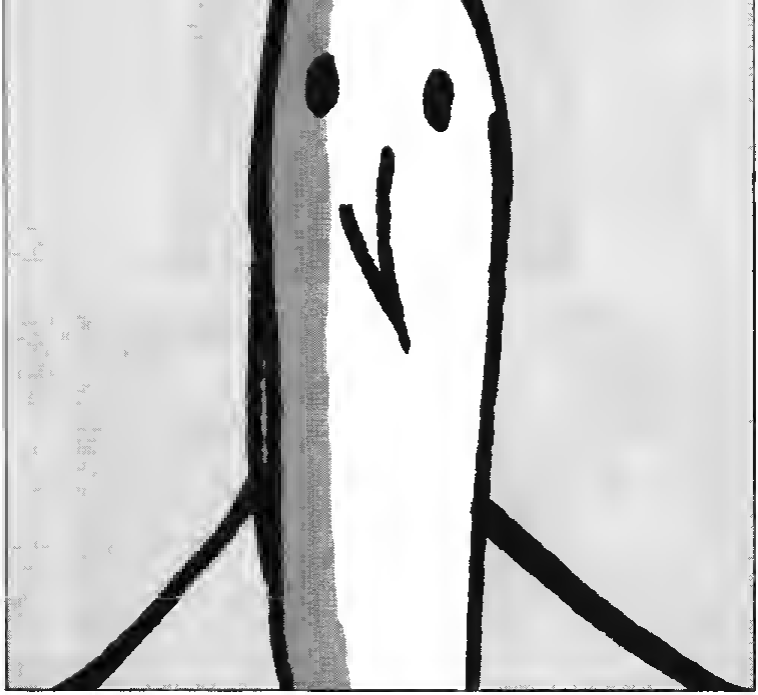
DRIVER,
COULD YOU PLEASE DROP ME OFF HERE?


YOU SURE?
YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK QUITE A BIT IF YOU GET OFF HERE...
THAT'S FINE.

2

I UHH... NEED TO CALM MYSELF DOWN ANYWAYS...
ミンミン ミンミン

P
文



THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH THE CRIES OF CICADAS AND LAUGHTERS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN.

IT WAS A CLEAR AND SUNNY DAY ALL THROUGHOUT JAPAN. AT 37°C, TODAY WAS THE HOTTEST DAY YET THIS SUMMER FOR PUNPUN'S TOWN.

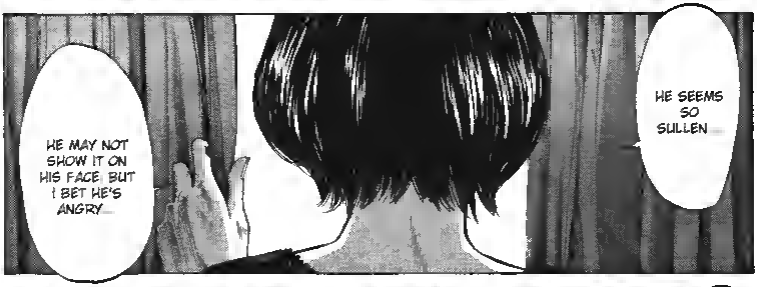
PUNPUN DISLIKED THE SUMMER BECAUSE IT WAS TOO HOT.

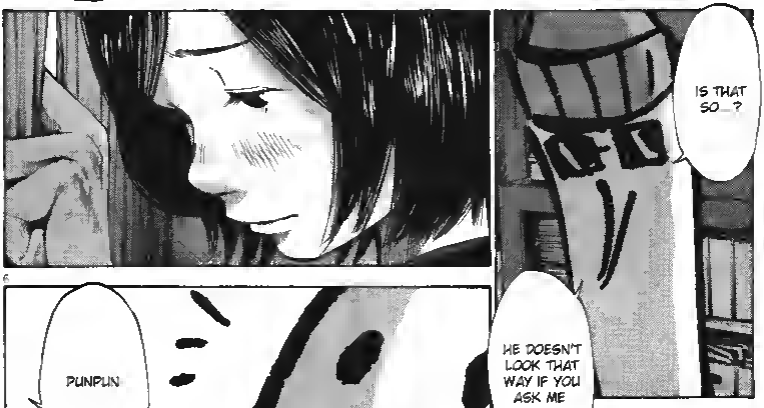
BUT HE DIDN'T LIKE THE WINTER EITHER BECAUSE IT WAS TOO COLD.

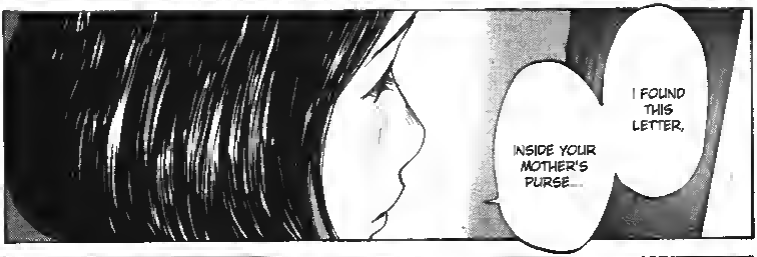
AND ABOVE ALL, HE HATED THIS MOMENT RIGHT NOW.

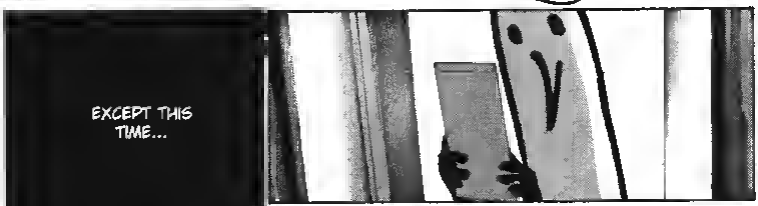
EVEN THOUGH HE HAD MANY THINGS HE NEEDED TO THINK ABOUT,

HE WAS TOO BUSY GRUMBLING ABOUT THE WEATHER AND THE SEASONS.


HE SEEMS SO SULLEN...
HE MAY NOT SHOW IT ON HIS FACE, BUT I BET HE'S ANGRY...

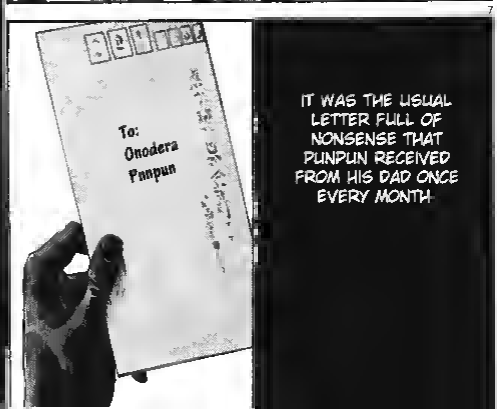

IS THAT SO...?
HE DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY IF YOU ASK ME
PUNPUN



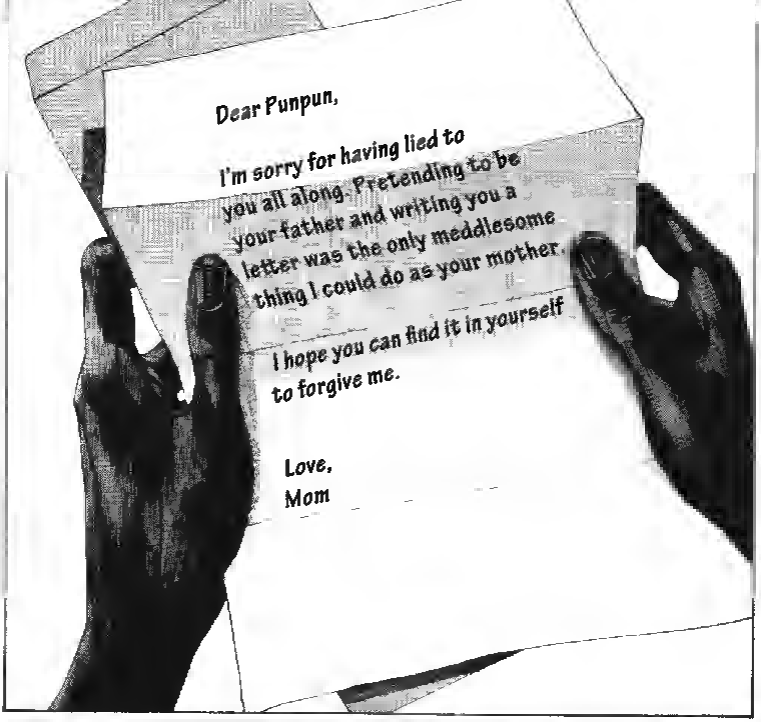


EXCEPT THIS TIME...

THE NAME OF THE SENDER AND THE STAMP WERE MISSING.



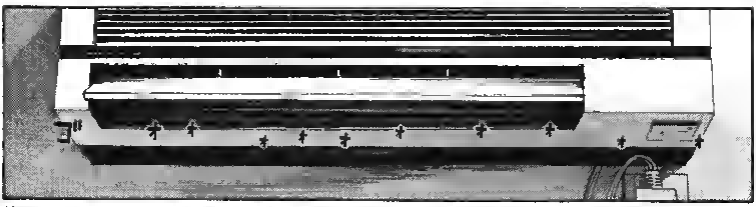
IT WAS THE USUAL LETTER FULL OF NONSENSE THAT PUNPUN RECEIVED FROM HIS DAD ONCE EVERY MONTH.


Dear Punpun,
I'm sorry for having lied to you all along. Pretending to be your father and writing you a letter was the only meddlesome thing I could do as your mother.
I hope you can find it in yourself to forgive me.
Love,
Mom

PUNPUN...

...STILL COULDN'T FIND IT IN HIM TO LOVE HIS MOTHER EVEN AT THE VERY END.

AH YES, YES...
FORGIVE ME FOR THE SUDDEN VISIT,
—YES, IT'S ME, PUNYAMA.



I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SHOWING UP TODAY
I'M SORRY WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO SERVE THAN COFFEE OR TEA—
AHAHA, OH PLEASE, ANYTHING'LL DO!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME AT ALL!

BUT WOW, YUUICHI YOU'VE DONE QUITE WELL FOR YOURSELF!
UMM... MY NAME'S ACTUALLY MIDORI,
NOT AKANE...
TO THINK YOU'D HAVE A GIRLFRIEND AS CUTE AS AKANE HERE!
AND... I'VE TOLD YOU A LITTLE BEFORE THAT WE'RE MARRIED...
A-AH! RIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT!
OF COURSE!
YES, YOU DID TELL ME BEFORE!
I'M SORRY, MY MEMORY'S BEEN RATHER BAD LATELY

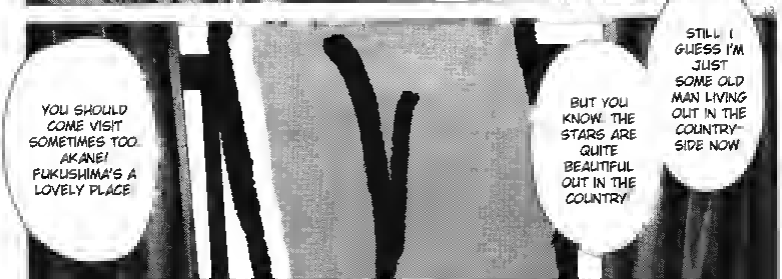
WOW,
I REALLY AM AMAZED...

PUNPUN...
YOU'VE GROWN SO BIG,

WHOO BOY...
AHAHA!
OR IS THAT NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE?
WHAT ARE YOU LIKE 3 TIMES BIGGER THAN WHEN I LAST SAW YOU!?

SO, UMM...
HOW'S HIGH SCHOOL?
ANY LUCK WITH THE GIRLS?
WELL, I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO ASK SINCE YOU MUST BE A REAL CHARMER...
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, THERE WASN'T A DAY WHEN I WASN'T GETTING IT ON WITH SOME GIRL! AHAHAHA!

UMM...
MR PUNYAMA, ARE YOU STILL WORKING IN FUKUSHIMA THESE DAYS?
AH YES. I'VE QUIT MY JOB AS A NIGHT-GUARD.
BUT AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE HELPED ME GET A JOB IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUSINESS.


STILL I GUESS I'M JUST SOME OLD MAN LIVING OUT IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE NOW.
BUT YOU KNOW. THE STARS ARE QUITE BEAUTIFUL OUT IN THE COUNTRY!
YOU SHOULD COME VISIT SOMETIMES TOO. AKANE! FUKUSHIMA'S A LOVELY PLACE.

PUNPUN
HATED THIS.

PUNPUN KNEW THAT ADULTS HAD THEIR OWN COMPLICATED CIRCUMSTANCES AND REASONS.

HIS DISLIKE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT HIS FATHER HAD NEGLECTED HIM FOR YEARS.

YET FOR SOME REASON, PUNPUN COULD NOT FEEL ANY MORE UNCOMFORTABLE.

AND SO, PUNPUN INTENTLY OBSERVED HIS FATHER TO FIGURE OUT THE REASON FOR HIS DISCOMFORT.

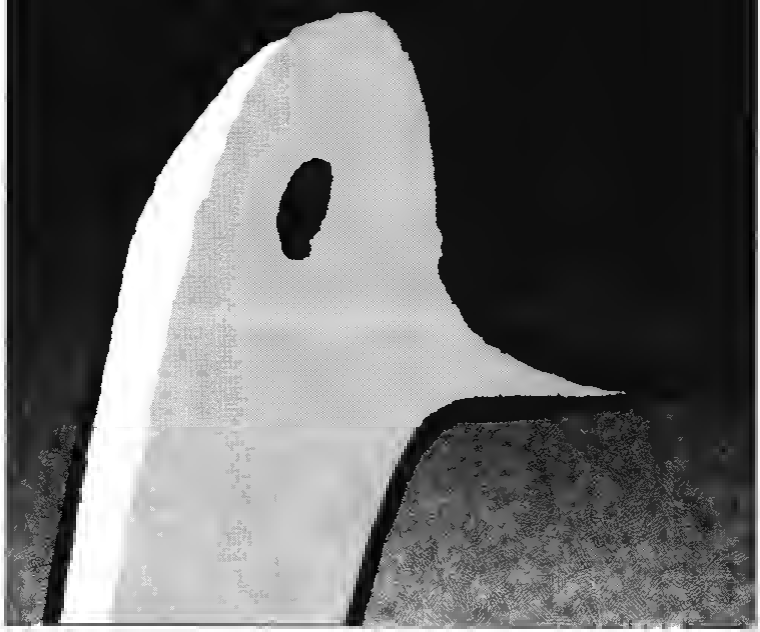
HIS FATHER WAS THE SAME AS HE ALWAYS HAD BEEN. HIS APPEARANCE, VOICE, AND ATMOSPHERE HAD HARDLY CHANGED.

STILL THE SAME FUNNY AND KIND FATHER AS BACK THEN...

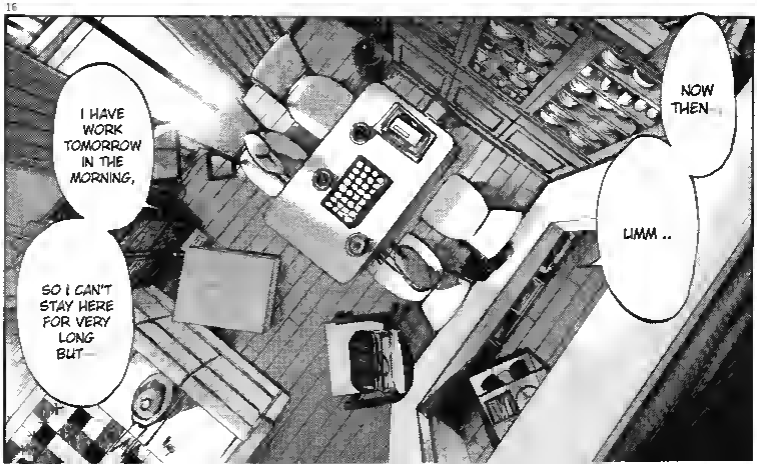
PUNPUN FIGURED OUT WHAT WAS SO DIFFERENT NOW COMPARED TO BACK THEN.

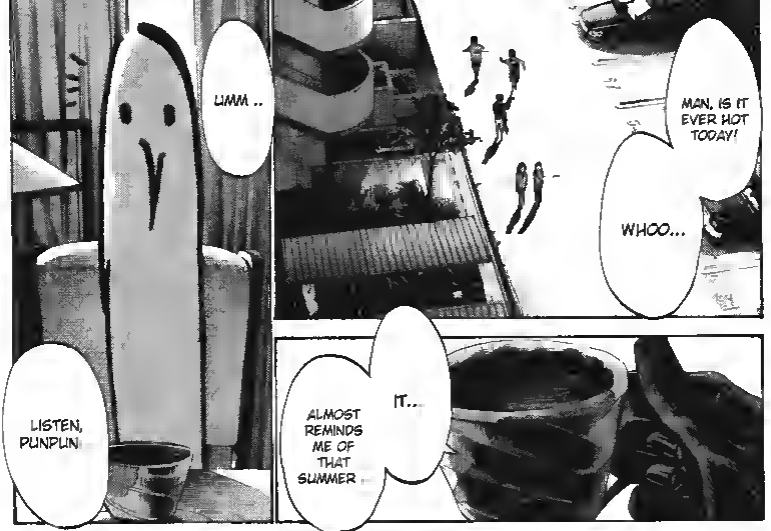
"...I SEE."

YES OF COURSE I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME HOT WATER FIRST THOUGH
AND THE NAME'S MIDORI.
AHA! I CAN'T BELIEVE I THOUGHT I WAS IN A COFEE-HOUSE FOR A MOMENT!
I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT THAT, AKEMI BUT UHH, COULD I HAVE SOME MORE?



IT WAS HIMSELF.

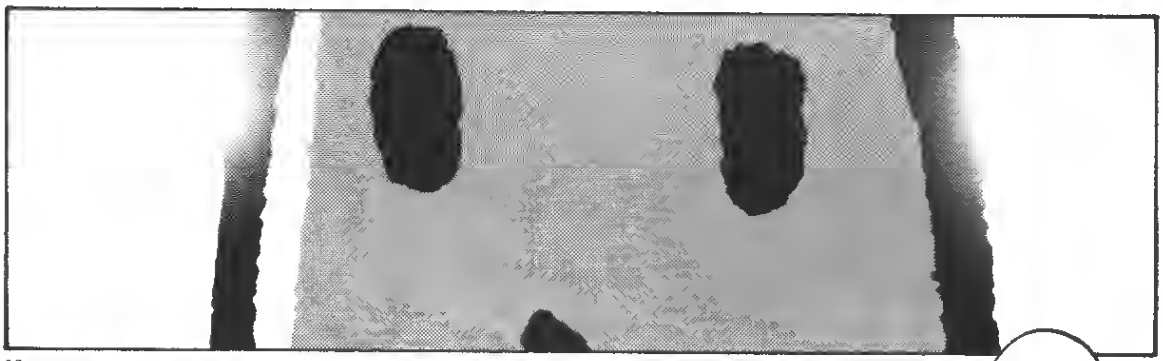



LISTEN, PUNPUN
UMM ..
ALMOST REMINDS ME OF THAT SUMMER ...
IT...
WHOO...
MAN, IS IT EVER HOT TODAY!

BUT THE QUESTION I'M ABOUT TO ASK YOU IS SOMETHING I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT
I KNOW I'M REAL NERVOUS AND STAM-MERING ABOUT WHATEVER COMES INTO MY HEAD RIGHT NOW...
I WANT YOU TO UNDER-STAND SOME-THING...

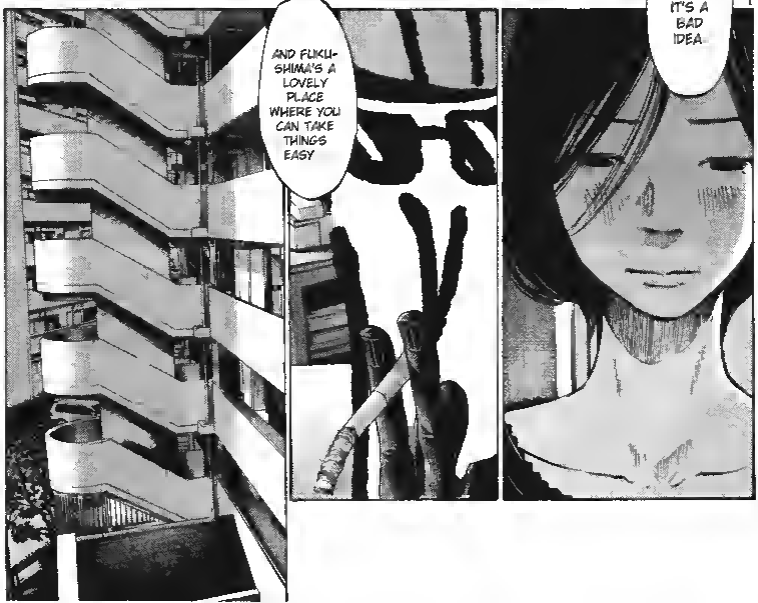
PUNPUN...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME LIVE WITH YOUR OLD MAN,
AT FUKUSHIMA?



LET'S START EVERY-THING OVER AGAIN,
FROM THE BEGINNING...

AFTER ALL,
YOU AND I ALWAYS USED TO GET ALONG WELL, RIGHT?

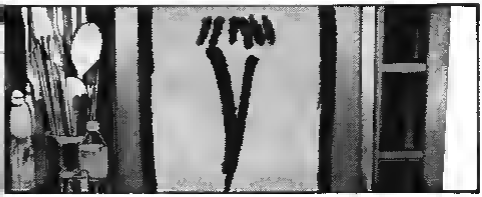

I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA
AND FUKUSHIMA'S A LOVELY PLACE WHERE YOU CAN TAKE THINGS EASY

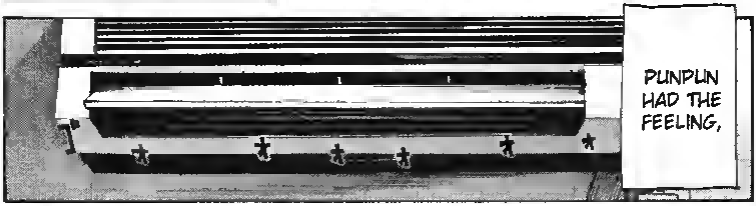
2

START EVERYTHING OVER AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING?

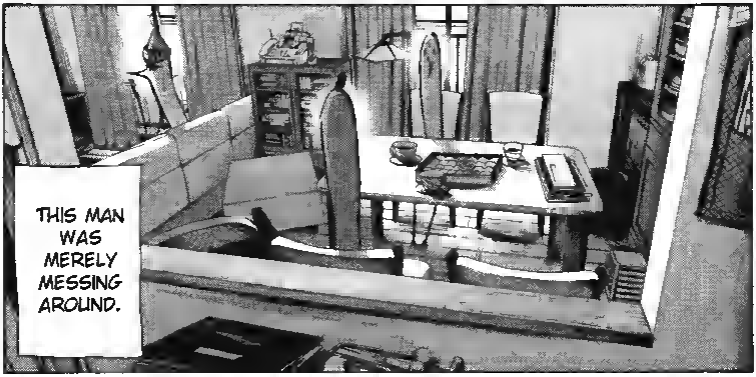
JUST WHAT DID HE MEAN BY EVERY-THING? AND WHERE EXACTLY WAS THIS BEGINNING?

PUNPUN COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE WORDS OF THE MAN SITTING IN FRONT OF HIM.





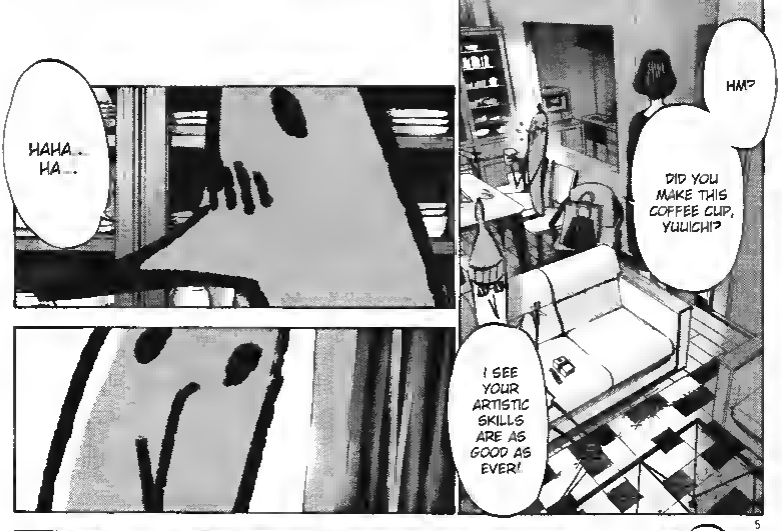
PUNPUN HAD THE FEELING,



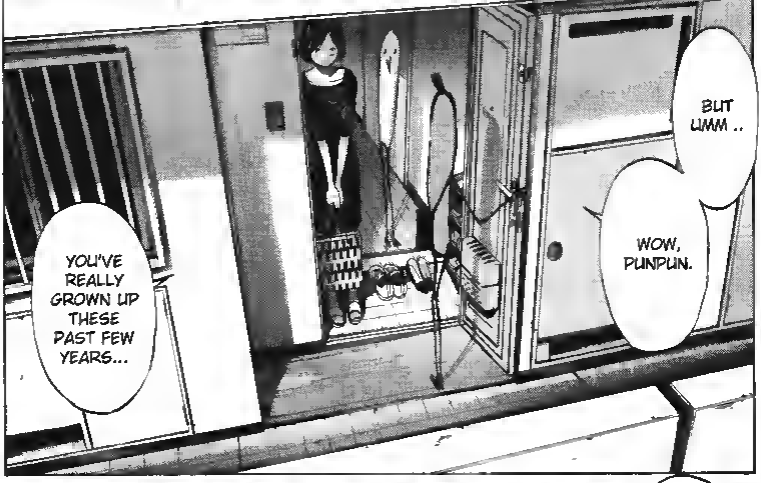
THIS MAN WAS MERELY MESSING AROUND.

"I..."

"I WANT TO LIVE ALONE."


HAHA... HA...
HM?
DID YOU MAKE THIS COFFEE CUP, YUUICHI?
I SEE YOUR ARTISTIC SKILLS ARE AS GOOD AS EVER!

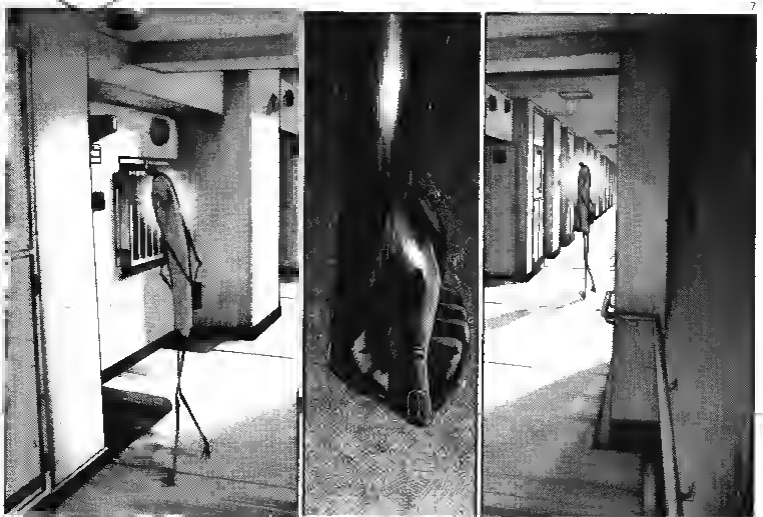
MHMM...
THAT'S JUST FINE TOO...


YOU'VE REALLY GROWN UP THESE PAST FEW YEARS...
WOW, PUNPUN.
BUT UMM ..

I BET YOU'RE 3 TIMES BIGGER THAN WHEN I LAST SAW YOU!
OR IS THAT NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE? AHAHA!

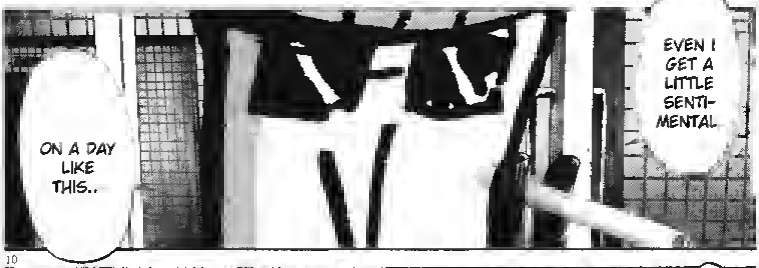
OH WAIT, I ALREADY SAID THAT BEFORE, DIDN'T I!?
WHOOPS, SILLY ME!
UMM...
I GUESS I SHOULD.
GET GOING NOW.
SEE YOU LATER THEN.

JUST REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU GROW UP,
I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR DAD.
PUNPUN
BYE-BYE-KIN.



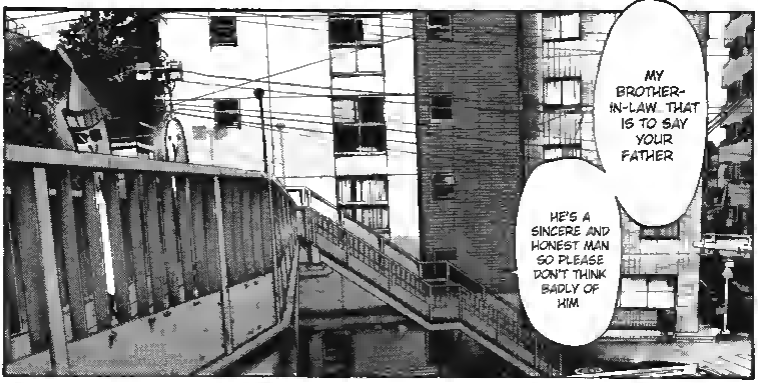
KNOCK
KNOCK

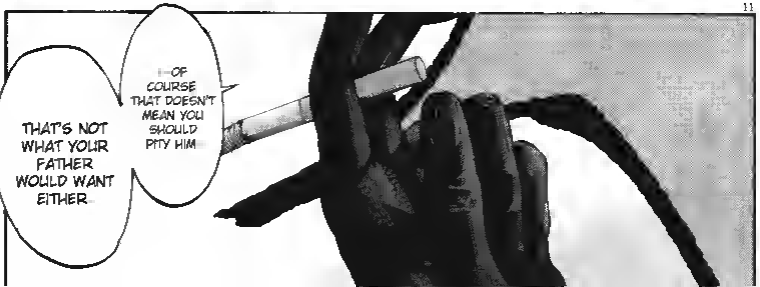
WHY DON'T WE ..
GO FOR A LITTLE WALK?


EVEN I GET A LITTLE SENTI-MENTAL
ON A DAY LIKE THIS..

HAHA.
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN,
SINCE YOU AND I WALKED ALONG TOGETHER LIKE THIS...?

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT...
THAT YOU AND I WERE ALIKE...
I UNDERSTAND YOUR IRRITATION, PUNPUN
PEOPLE ARE JUST TOO SELFISH
MY SISTER, MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND OF COURSE, MYSELF AS WELL.


MY BROTHER-IN-LAW. THAT IS TO SAY YOUR FATHER
HE'S A SINCERE AND HONEST MAN SO PLEASE DON'T THINK BADLY OF HIM


...OF COURSE THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD PITY HIM
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD WANT EITHER

AFTER ALL, LIFE IS ABOUT REAPING WHAT YOU SOW.
WE'RE ALL LIVING ON A PATH WE'VE CHOSEN.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

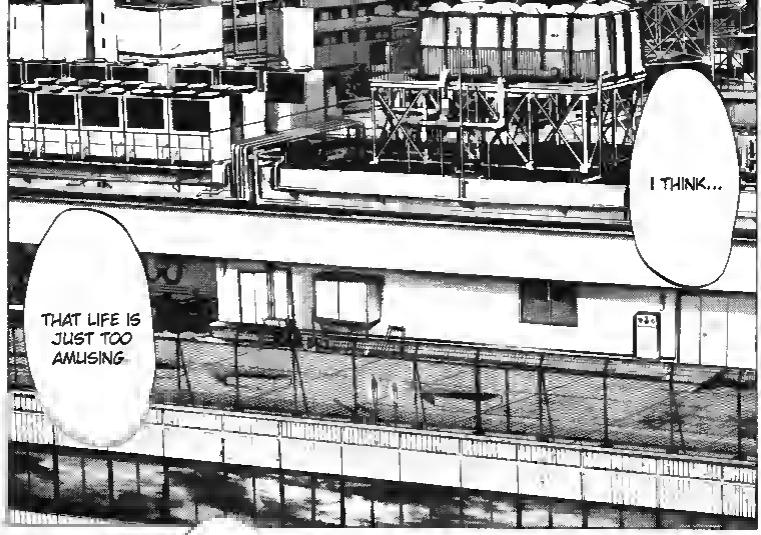
PUNPUN...
WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE?
MONEY, DREAMS, SYMPATHY TOWARDS OTHERS...
YES, THEY'RE ALL IMPORTANT THINGS AS WELL...
12
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS RESPONSI-BILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS.

WHEN I HEARD YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO LIVE ALONE,
I WAS FRANKLY QUITE DUMB-FOUNDED.
BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE DECIDED, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING AGAINST IT.
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO BECOME A SERIAL KILLER OR A SHUT-IN, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS TO INTERFERE.
EVEN MY LITTLE WILLY SEEMED TO SHRIVEL UP

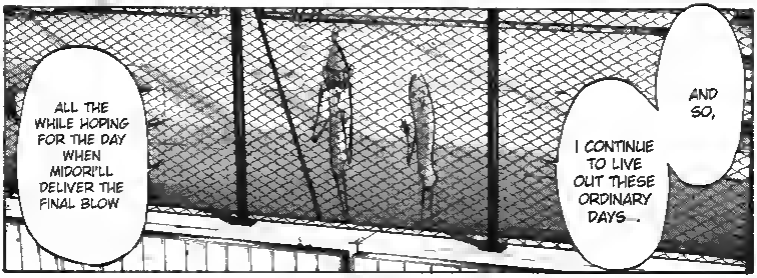
BUT,
IF YOU EVER BLAME OTHERS FOR WHATEVER MAY HAPPEN TO YOU...
I SWEAR I'LL COME AFTER YOU WITH A KATANA!

GOT IT!?
THERE'S A SHOCKING AMOUNT OF FREEDOM IN ONE'S LIFE!
BUT WITH THAT FREEDOM COMES RESPONSI-BILITY. DON'T YOU EVER FORGET THAT, BOY.

WHEN I FIRST CAME INSIDE MIDORI,
A PART OF ME INSIDE WITHERED UP AND DIED.
AND WHEN SHE AND I DECIDED TO GET MARRIED,
WE DECIDED TO TELL EACH OTHER ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED IN OUR LIVES
SO NATURALLY,
I KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND HER.
...BUT I'M NOT ANGRY.
IN FACT, I LOVE YOU JUST AS MUCH AS EVER!
PUNPUN...
LARK
9


I THINK...
THAT LIFE IS JUST TOO AMUSING

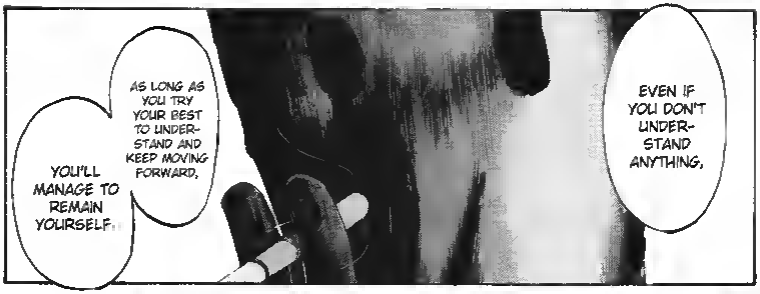
EVEN A USELESS PIECE OF TRASH LIKE ME COMES TO THINK LIKE THAT
THERE'S NOT A MOMENT IN LIFE THAT'S A WASTE OF TIME


ALL THE WHILE HOPING FOR THE DAY WHEN MIDORI'LL DELIVER THE FINAL BLOW
AND SO,
I CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT THESE ORDINARY DAYS...

WHERE WILL YOUR GRAVE BE?
PLNPLN...

AND WILL YOUR LIFE STILL BE BURNING THERE AND THEN?

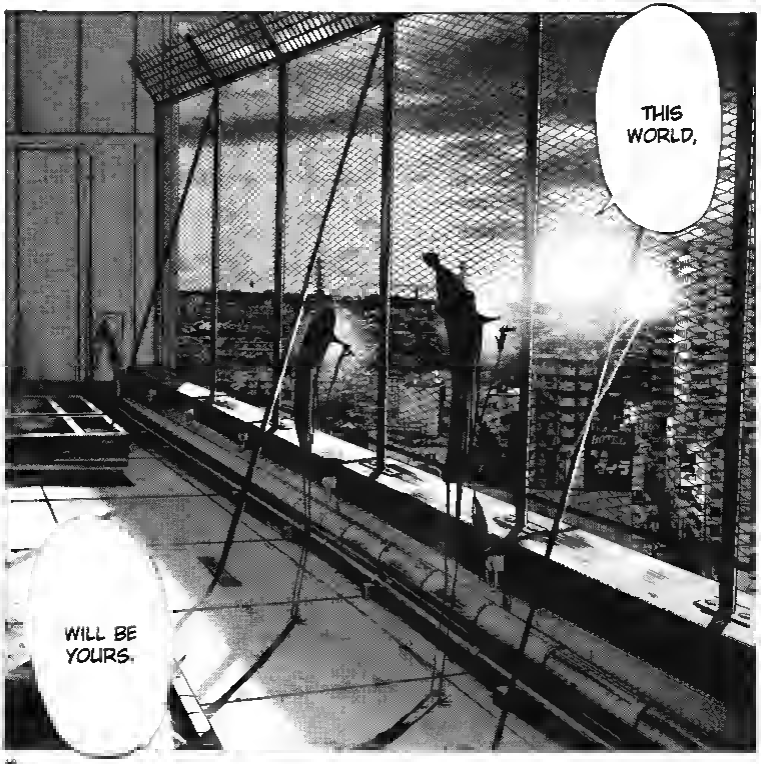
PUNPUN...
YOU MUST THINK.
WRAP YOUR HEAD OVER IT!
AND THEN DECIDE YOUR INTENT.


EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING,
AS LONG AS YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO UNDER-STAND AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD,
YOU'LL MANAGE TO REMAIN YOURSELF.

EVEN IN THESE DULL DAYS...
AND THIS WORTHLESS PLACE,
THE ONLY THING YOU CAN CHANGE IS YOU YOURSELF!

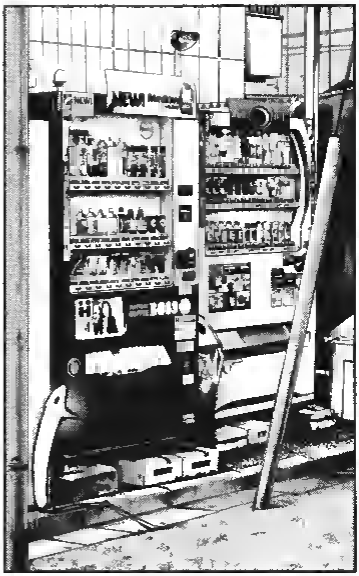
THAT'S WHY,
AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN YOURSELF...

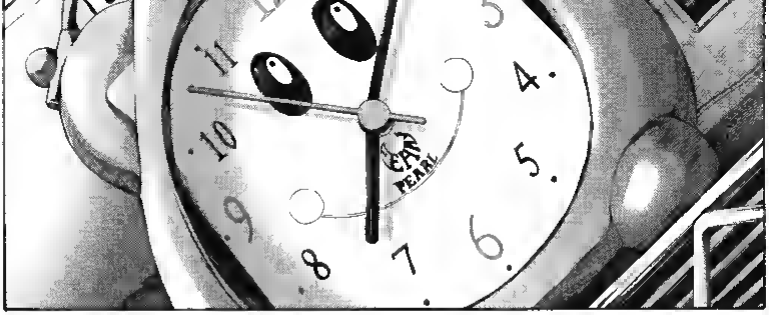
THE CIGARETTE SMOKE
HELPLESSLY DISPERSED
IN THE AIR AND SOON
DISSOLVED IN THE
NIGHT SKY.



AS IF AFFIRMING THAT THINGS
WOULD NEVER RETURN TO THE
WAY THEY WERE, PUNPUN
BREATHED IN THE SMOKE
SLOWLY AND DEEPLY.

女





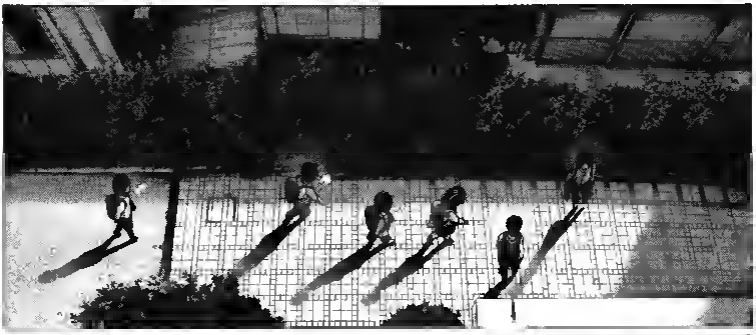
THE REVERBERATING
TICKING NOISE OF THE
SECOND HAND.

THE ALARM CLOCK
THAT RINGS
AT 7:10 AM.

NEWS THAT SOUNDS
ALL TOO FAMILIAR.

KNITTED-CARTIGAN
AND MUFFLER.

THE SMELL OF
MORNING.



LITTLE WHITE CLOUDS
EXHALED BY CHILDREN
WALKING TO SCHOOL.

AND THE PLATFORM'S TIRED ATMOSPHERE FULL OF YAWNING AND SIGHING.

THE TRAIN THAT ARRIVES AT 7:45 AM,

AND J-POP SPILLING OUT FROM ANOTHER'S HEADPHONES.

MEANINGLESS CHIT-CHAT,

AND FOOTSTEPS
WALKING UPSTAIRS.

HURRIED OPENING
OF SHOE-LOCKERS,

AND THE
WINTER SKY.

SCRATCHING
OF PENCILS,

THE USUAL CLASSROOM.

SOMEONE'S LIP BALM FALLING FROM THE DESK AND ROLLING ON THE FLOOR.

SURE, I MAY LOOK LIKE AN EASY-GOING GUY WHO'S ALREADY DECIDED TO APPLY FOR THE UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDED TO ME...
BUT...
THAT'S ONLY ONE STEP OF MY MASTER PLAN! AND THAT VERY PLAN IS...

A RAGGED COMICS MAGAZINE WORN OUT FROM BEING ROLLED.

AN ANSWER SHEET THROWN AWAY IN THE TRASH CAN.

ANY PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE?
STUDYING DUH. WHAT ELSE?
YEAH SUREEE. I BET YOU'RE JUST GONNA WATCH KOUHAKU!
HEY LET'S DECIDE ON WHERE TO GO FOR OUR GRADUATION TRIP

COFFEE MILK ON THE ROOFTOP.

THE QUIET STILLNESS AFTER SCHOOL.

AND CHRISTMAS SONGS BLARING OUT FROM SPEAKERS.

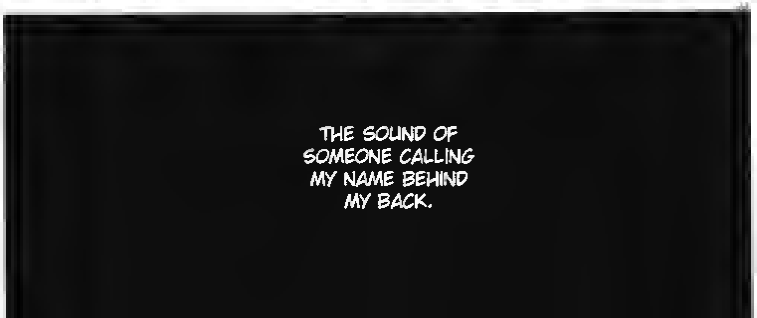
THE VIDEO RENTAL STORE'S BARGAIN SALES,

AN ARCADE FIGHTER SO YEN PER PLAY.

WALKING THIS WAY
AND THAT WAY,

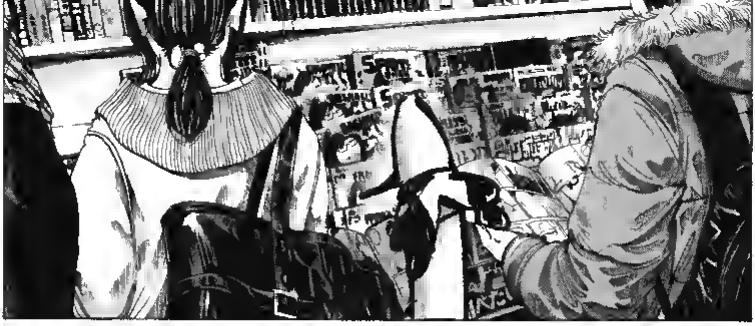
THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE
OF THE CITY IN DECEMEBER,

PEOPLE,
PEOPLE,
PEOPLE.


THE SOUND OF
SOMEONE CALLING
MY NAME BEHIND
MY BACK.

SOLITUDE.

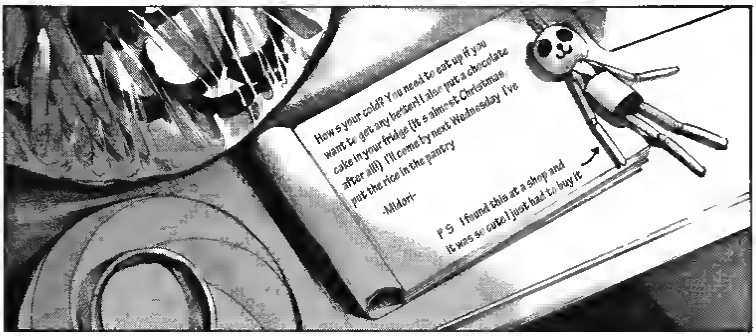
FREEDOM.



THE COMICS
CORNER OF THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

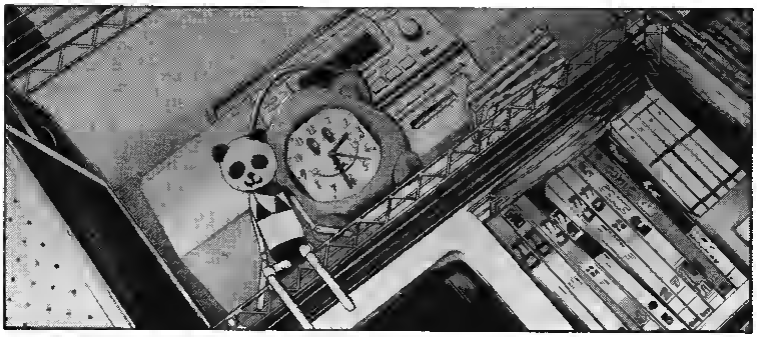
LOW-SUGAR
CANNED COFFEE.

PITCH BLACK
ROOM.


How's your cold? You need to eat up if you want to get any better! I also put a chocolate cake in your fridge (it's almost Christmas after all!) I'll come by next Wednesday. I've put the rice in the pantry
-Midori-
P.S. I found this at a shop and it was so cute I just had to buy it.

COLD DINNER.

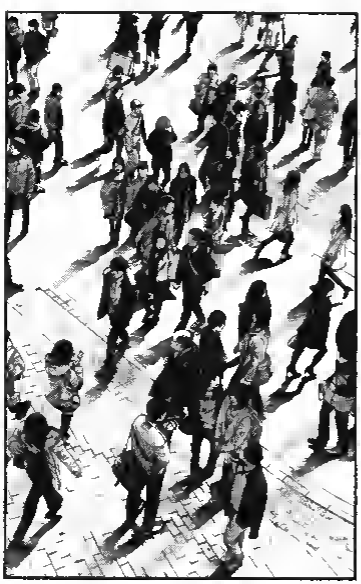
NEWS THAT SOUNDS
ALL TOO FAMILIAR.



THE ALARM CLOCK
SET AT 7:10 AM.

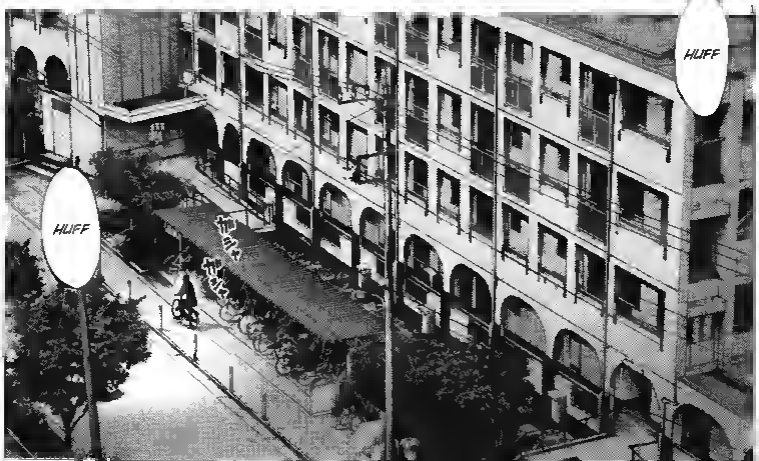
PUNPUN IS...

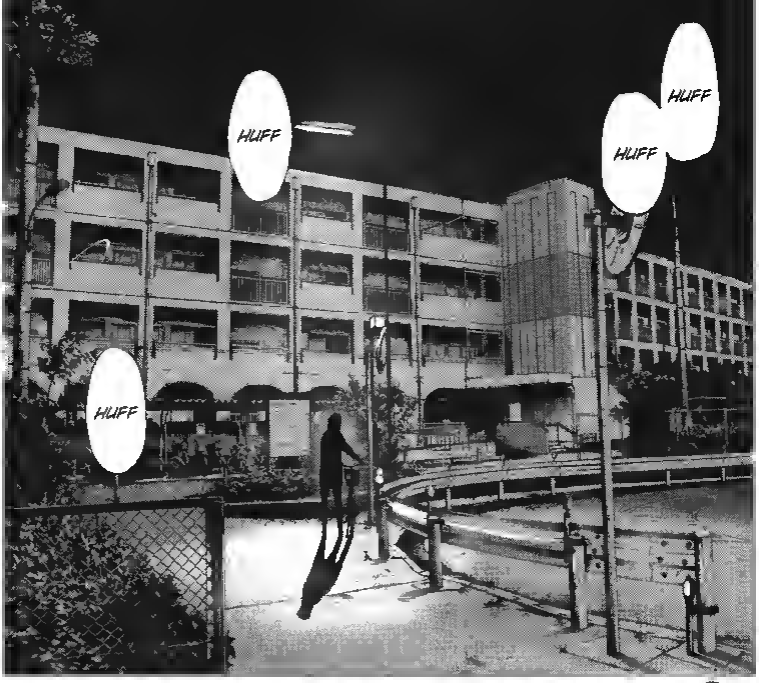
JUST FINE
AGAIN TODAY.



YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS
Asano Inio
7
Goodnight
Punpun

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GIGA
ホンキ.ホーテ
GIGA
ホンキ.ホーテ


HUFF
HUFF


HUFF
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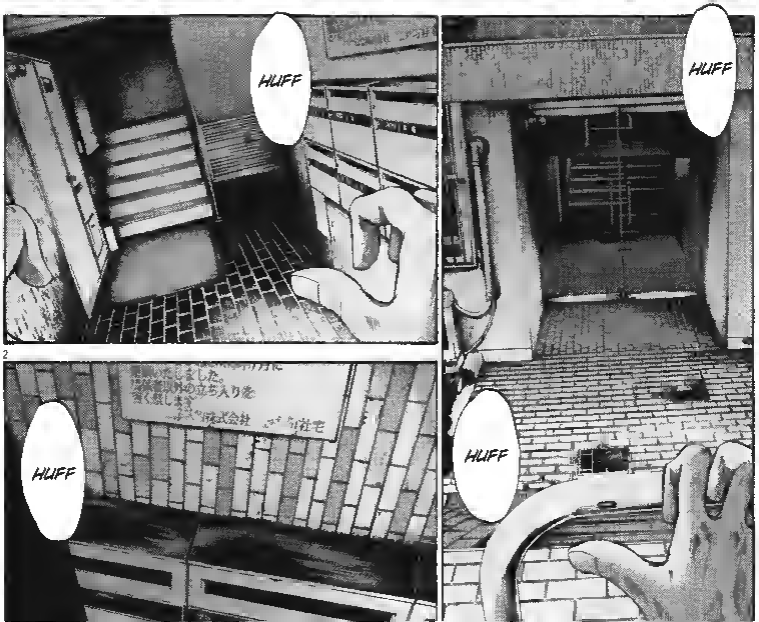
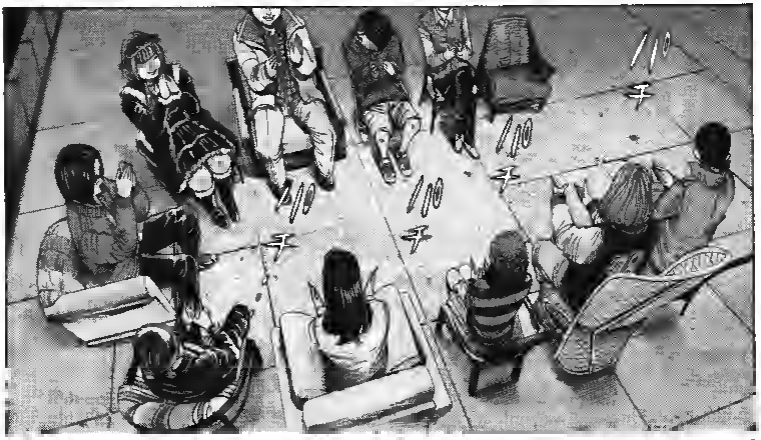

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE BY NOW...

GOOD VIBRATIONS.
YOU SURE ARE QUITE CAREFREE TO BE ARRIVING 15MIN LATE!
BUT EVEN SO,
I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU...!

LET US GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW FRIEND!
IN FACT,
THAT ASPECT OF YOU IS PRECISELY WHAT I WANT TO SHOW OFF!



IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
HERE I GO BY THE NICKNAME "PAOPAO CHANNEL."
MY HOBBY IS KEEPING UP WITH TEEN IDOLS! OF COURSE, I WOULD NEVER CROSS THE LINE BETWEEN BEING A FAN AND BEING A STALKER
I HOPE WE CAN GET ALONG WELL!

HMM,
YOU'VE REALLY BECOME ABLE TO SPEAK SO CLEARLY NOW.
I REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU WERE MUMBLING AND EVER SO SHY.

A ROUND OF APPLA-USE!

OH, PLEASE. THIS IS ALL DUE TO MY OWN HARD EFFORTS!
YOU'RE NOT IMPLYING THAT I CHANGED BECAUSE OF MEETING YOU NOW, ARE YOU, PEGASUS?

ワン
ワン
ワン

YOU CAN CALL ME "ECHO BACK."
I'M AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT MY UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
I FIRST BECAME AQUAINTED WITH PEGASUS AT A CULTURE SCHOOL DANCE
WHY DON'T I PERFORM A LITTLE DANCE FOR YOUR SAKE TONIGHT?

YOI YOI!
EXCELLENT!
AS EXPECTED OF OUR MADONNA...

I'M "WHITE PIG" I WORK AS A SHOP CLERK
DID YOU KNOW ALL GIRLS CAN DO WONDERFUL MAGIC?
YOU SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO OUR ANNUAL SUMMER BARBECUE!
I'M "HAVING ONE BATTERY LEFT OVER-IS TROUBLESOME"
I WORK IN WEB DESIGN AND PUBLISH INDIE MAGZ ON THE SIDE
I WOULD LOVE TO DISCUSS OOPARTS AND MYSTERIOUS GIANT ORGANISMS WITH YOU SOMETIME
"LOVE INFINITE" SPEAKING.
I'M A 26 YEAR OLD FREETER.
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT BUT I'M RATHER KNOWLEDGEABLE WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS
I'VE EVEN ONCE COMPETED IN THE NATIONAL SWIM MEET

HI! I'M "ASS [illegible] BURGER."
I'M ATTENDING A VOICE ACTING SCHOOL IN HOPES OF BECOMING A VOICE ACTOR ONE DAY.
I'M SORRY IF MY ANIME-ISH SOUNDING VOICE BUGS YOU BUT THAT'S JUST MY NORMAL VOICE...

I'M GUARDIAN ANGEL GIBOBOGIG!
I'M A MOTHER OF TWO AND MY HOBBY IS CERAMICS!
SPEAKING AS A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, I'M SO GLAD TO BE FRIENDS WITH SUCH A YOUNG PERSON LIKE YOU!

[illegible] NAME'S CONTRARY!
I USED TO DO SOME PRETTY BAD THINGS BACK WHEN I WAS IN A GANG. BUT NOW, I'M JUST AN HONEST DELIVERY MAN ENSURING YOUR PARCELS ARE SAFE!
ALL THE GUYS HERE ARE INCREDIBLY NICE!
NICE TA MEET'CHA, BABY!

SWEET PRETTY LONELY HEART FLUFFYBRO SPEAKING. YO
I'M A MATH TEACHER AT A PRETTY WELL KNOWN CRAM [redacted]HOOL.
ME AND PEGASUS HAVE BEEN TIGHT EVER SINCE MY COLLEGE DAYS...
NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS. NOW, THIS AIN'T NOTHING DIFFERENT FROM YOUR COLLEGE CLUBS
SO JUMP RIGHT IN!
ALL OF US HERE,
WILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS!
NOW...
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO INTRO-DUCE YOUR-SELF!
PLEASE, LET US HEAR YOUR LOVELY VOICE!

AND
WELCOME,
TO THE
PEGASUS
ENSEMBLE...!

H-HI,
I'M NUMATA HIROMI!
UMM...
I'LL BE ENTERING UNIVERSITY WITH THE HOPES OF BECOMING AN ACCOUNTANT...
I BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND OVER THE WINTER--
AND I WAS--- FEELING REALLY REALLY DOWN
I EVEN WONDERED WHAT MEANING THERE WAS IN CONTINUING TO LIVE IN THIS DULL WORLD
BUT...

ON ONE NIGHT, I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY THIS BRIGHT LIGHT,
AND I JUST HAD THE MOST AMAZING EPIPHANY...
THAT IT WASN'T THE WORLD THAT WAS DULL AND LIFELESS,
BUT MYSELF!
I MET WITH PEGASUS THE DAY RIGHT AFTER.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS AURA OR WHATNOT...
BUT I JUST HAD THE FEELING THAT THIS WAS TOO MUCH TO BE A COINCIDENCE
AND THAT THIS MAN MIGHT JUST BE MY "GOD" WHO'LL GUIDE ME!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'M NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO BE PERFECTLY FINE WHEN SOMEONE CALLS ME A GOD...
BUT OTHERWISE, VERY GOOD, HIROM...
NO... FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE KNOWN AS PUSSY PRINCESS.
ALLOW ME TO PLAY ONE PIECE,
IN YOUR HONOUR...

14

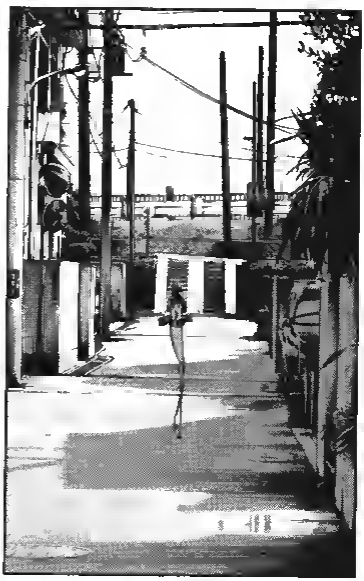
OUR GROUP,
IS NO CULT OR SOME SELF-ENLIGHTEN-MENT SEMINAR...
WE ARE SIMPLY PURSUERS,
OF LOVE, PEACE, AND PURE INNO-CENCE...

ONLY 2 MORE PEOPLE LEFT TO JOIN...
WOULD YOU ALL PLEASE,
ACCOMPANY ME UNTIL 2 YEARS FROM NOW AT THAT FATED MOMENT...?

I WANT TO SEE,
THE MOON
FLIP

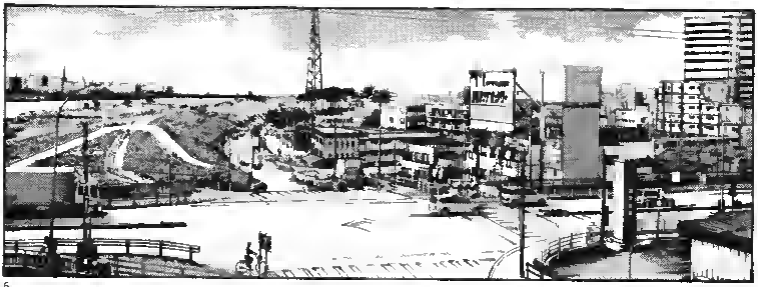
GOOD VIBRATIONS!

Chapter 72



PUNPUN WAS...

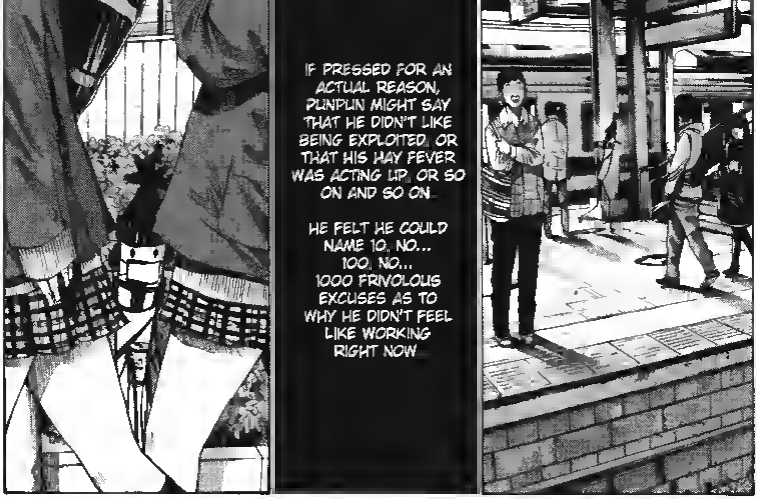
FEELING A LITTLE DEPRESSED ABOUT HAVING TO GO TO HIS PART-TIME WORK TODAY.



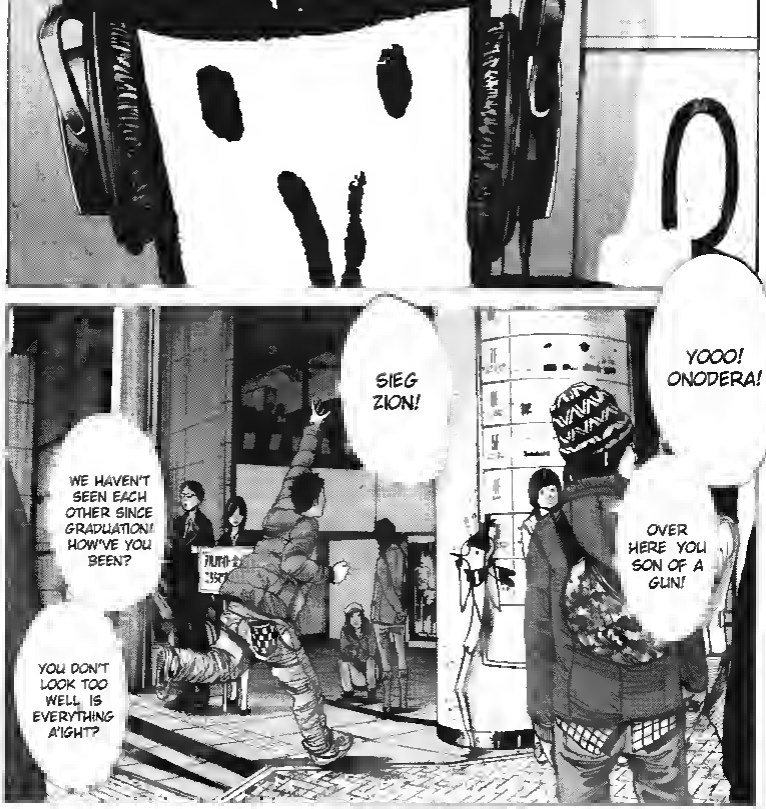
5

HE JUST FELT TOO SLUGGISH FOR ANYTHING REALLY.

THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR REASON REASON TO IT.


IF PRESSED FOR AN ACTUAL REASON, PUNPUN MIGHT SAY THAT HE DIDN'T LIKE BEING EXPLOITED, OR THAT HIS HAY FEVER WAS ACTING UP, OR SO ON AND SO ON.
HE FELT HE COULD NAME 10, NO... 100, NO... 1000 FRIVOLOUS EXCUSES AS TO WHY HE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE WORKING RIGHT NOW.

BUT... THAT'S THE TYPE OF PERSON SOCIETY MIGHT CALL A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SLACKER.


SIEG ZION!
YOOO! ONODERA!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE GRADUATION! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
OVER HERE YOU SON OF A GUN!
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO WELL. IS EVERYTHING A'IGHT?

STILL TRYING TO REACH ENLIGHTEN-MENT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY BUT HEY, I'M STILL IN THERE!
AS FOR ME I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY WITH THE LADIES TO GET A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP EVER SINCE ENTERING UNIVERSITY!
4F
WHAT, YOU TAKE WALKS EVERY DAY?
IN ANY CASE, SINCE YOU INTRODUCED ME TO YOUR PART-TIME JOB AND ALL, I'LL HELP US GET SOME SWEET BABES TO TALK TO!
WHAT ARE YOU, AN OLD MAN!?

00:00:00
0407
5908
2300
1157
SO PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CLICK THE COUNTER FOR EVERY PERSON THAT PASSES BY
DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
ALRIGHT THEN,
YOU MAY NOW ALL GO TO YOUR DESIGNATED AREAS
OH, ME! I'VE GOT ONE!
HOW MANY TIMES SHOULD I COUNT FOR THE SAME PERSON WHO WALKS BACK AND FORTH AT MY AREA?

MANY PEOPLE WALKED
BY AGAIN TODAY.

DON'T YOU FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY ABOUT BEING A DRAIN ON YOUR PARENTS' MONEY?
RENT OUT A PLACE AND TRY TO MAKE IT ON YOUR OWN LIKE WHAT I'M DOING! I'M SURE YOU CAN TURN OVER A NEW LEAF THAT WAY!
WELL...
I'M NOT TRYING TO CRITICIZE YOU OR ANYTHING BUT...

AND AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE PASSING BY WITH CONFIDENT LOOKS ON THEIR FACES, THERE WERE SURE TO BE SOME WHOSE HEARTS WERE SECRETLY WEIGHED DOWN BY FAMILY MATTERS, SICKNESSES, IRREVERSIBLE MISTAKES, AND OTHER GRAVE THINGS.

ALRIGHT, I'LL SPECIALLY GIVE HER 2 CLICKS!
THOSE OTHER TWO ARE PRETTY MEH SO I'LL GIVE HALF A CLICK FOR EACH OF'EM.
DAYUM!
AMAZINGLY HOT CHICK SPOTTED!

THE BEST THING TO DO RIGHT NOW IS TO CONTINUE BEING TIMID AND AVERT THEIR GAZES.

NO, NO, STOP. STOP THINKING LIKE THIS.

...AND YET, HERE I WAS, FEELING TOO DEPRESSED TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT EVEN HAVING A GOOD REASON.

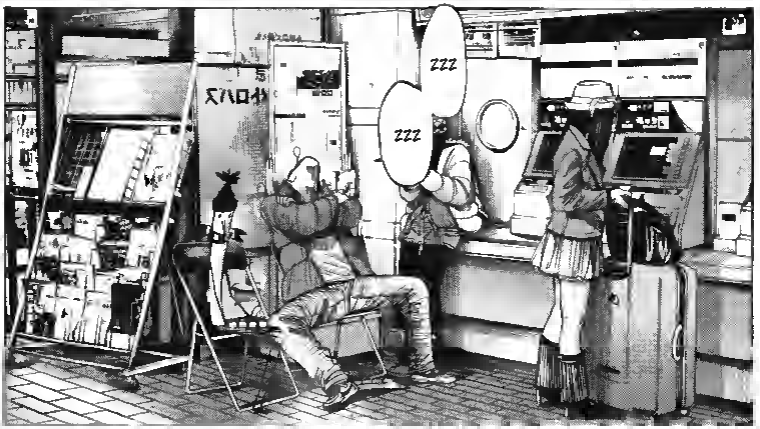
NO ONE WILL EVEN LOOK MY WAY.

OF COURSE NOT. THEY'RE ALL TOO BUSY BOLDLY FORGING THEIR OWN PATHS IN LIFE.

WHO AM I LOOKING FOR?

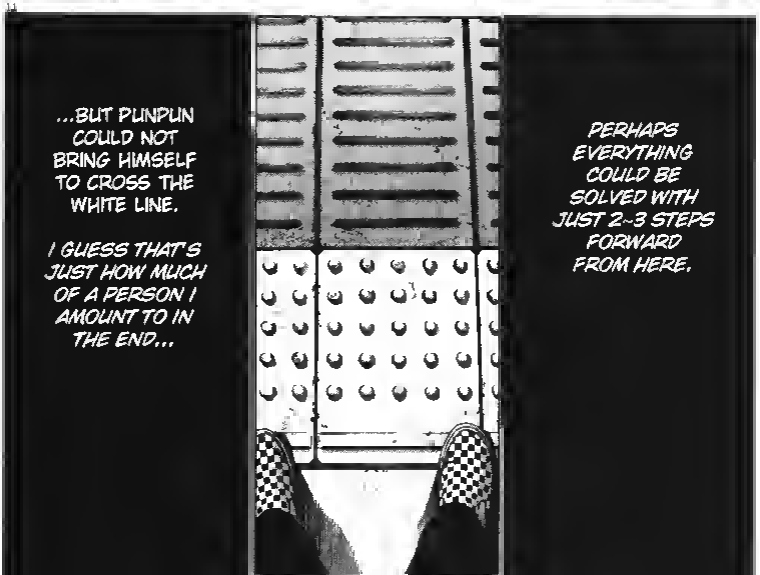
IT'S NOT AS IF ANYBODY'LL MAGICALLY SHOW UP AND HELP ME.

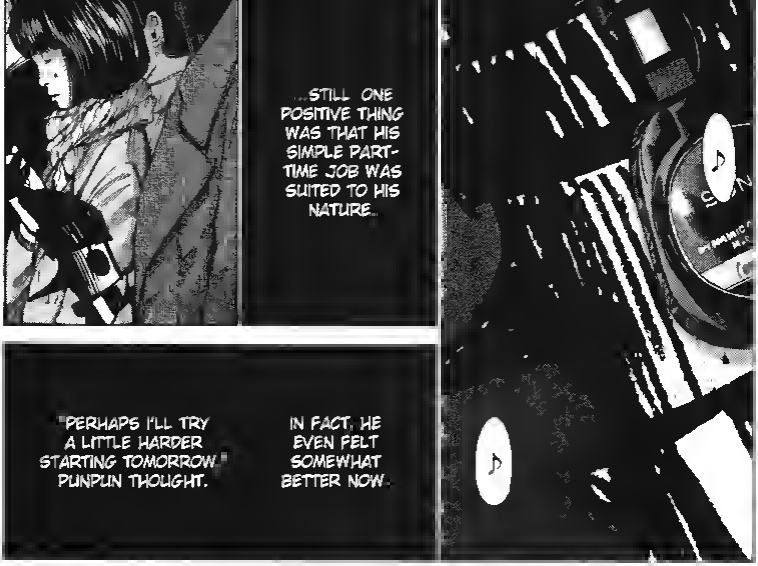
...BUT EVEN SO, I CAN'T HELP BUT LOOK AT THESE PEOPLE AS IF I'M TRYING TO CLING ONTO THEM.

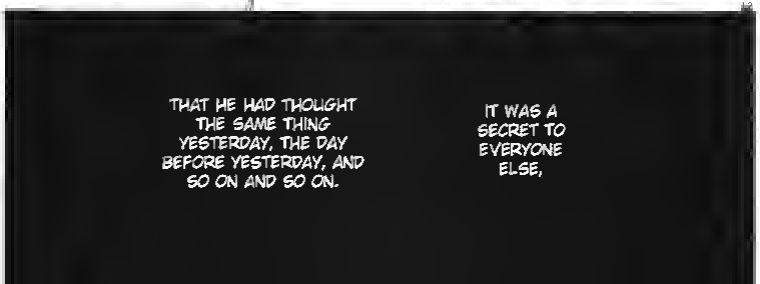


PUNPUN'S MIND COULD ONLY FOCUS ON THE COLDNESS OF THE NORTHERN WINDS.

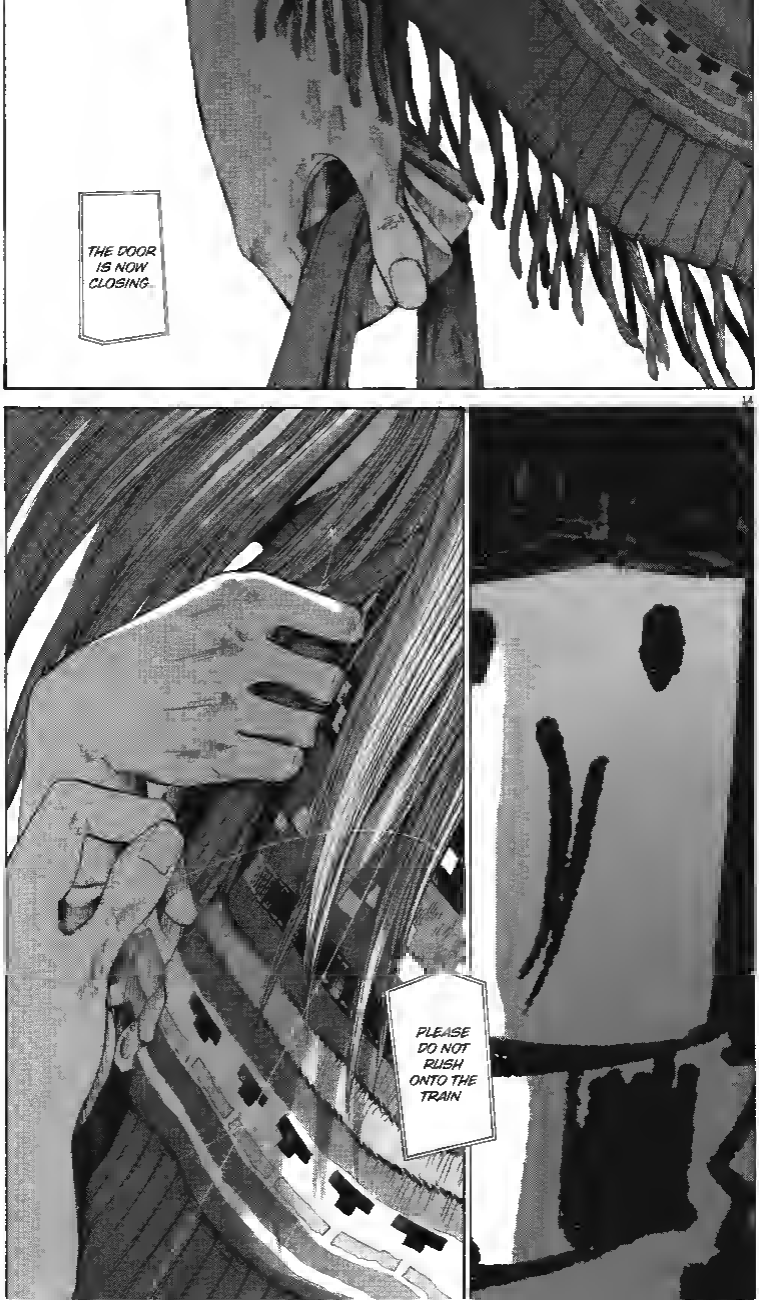
EVEN THOUGH THE WINDS WERE ALREADY MIXED WITH A HINT OF THE COMING SPRING,


...BUT PUNPUN COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO CROSS THE WHITE LINE.
I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW MUCH OF A PERSON I AMOUNT TO IN THE END...
PERHAPS EVERYTHING COULD BE SOLVED WITH JUST 2~3 STEPS FORWARD FROM HERE.


...STILL ONE POSITIVE THING WAS THAT HIS SIMPLE PART-TIME JOB WAS SUITED TO HIS NATURE.
"PERHAPS I'LL TRY A LITTLE HARDER STARTING TOMORROW," PUNPUN THOUGHT.
IN FACT, HE EVEN FELT SOMEWHAT BETTER NOW.


THAT HE HAD THOUGHT THE SAME THING YESTERDAY, THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, AND SO ON AND SO ON.
IT WAS A SECRET TO EVERYONE ELSE,

AH!
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?


THE DOOR IS NOW CLOSING.
PLEASE DO NOT RUSH ONTO THE TRAIN

冷房車

なら安心です

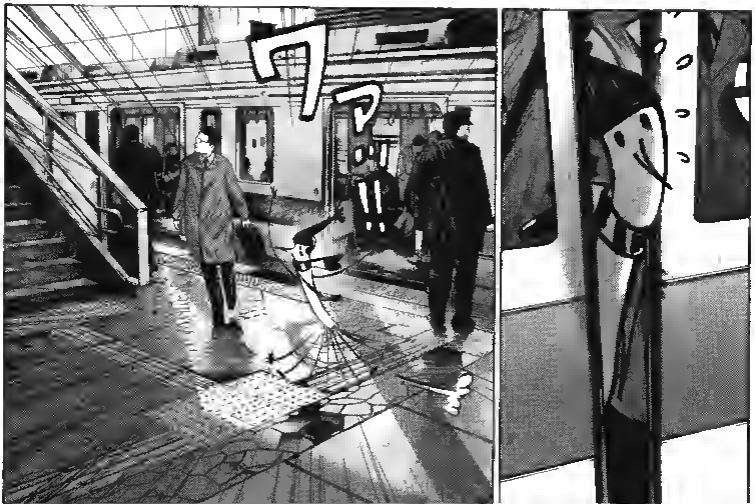
...IT'S AIKO.

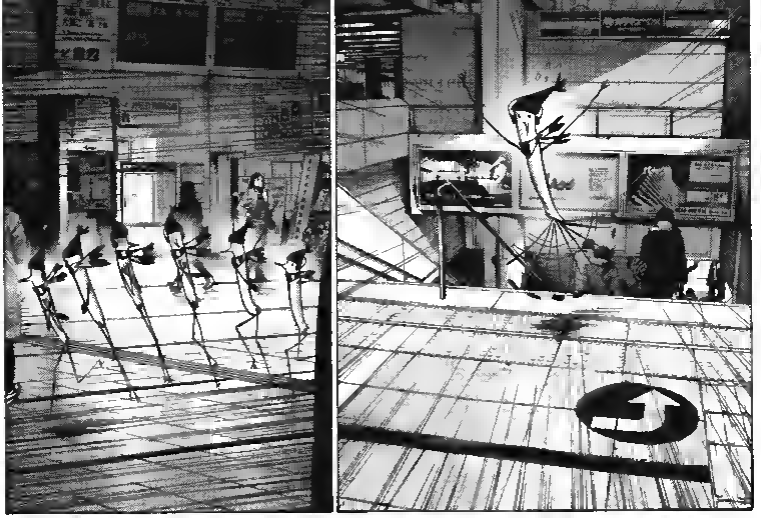
Chapter 73

AIKO

IT'S AIKO!
IT'S AIKO!
IT'S AIKO!

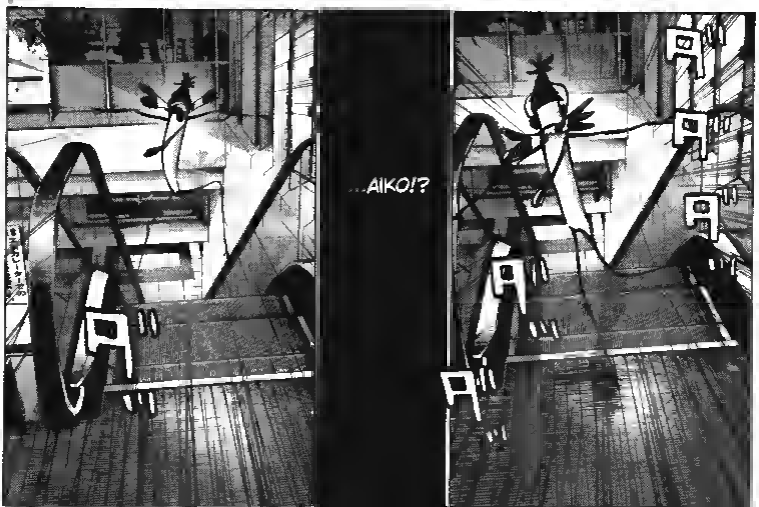
IT'S AIKO...





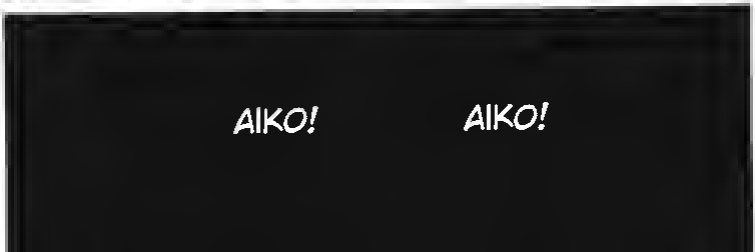
AIKO...

女性專用車
Women Only


...AIKO!?

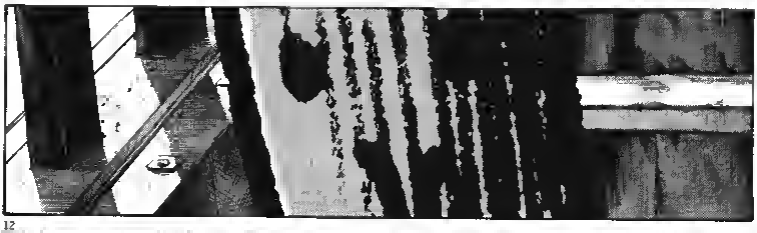
4
AIKO!!!

のりこし精算
ドベ


AIKO!
AIKO!

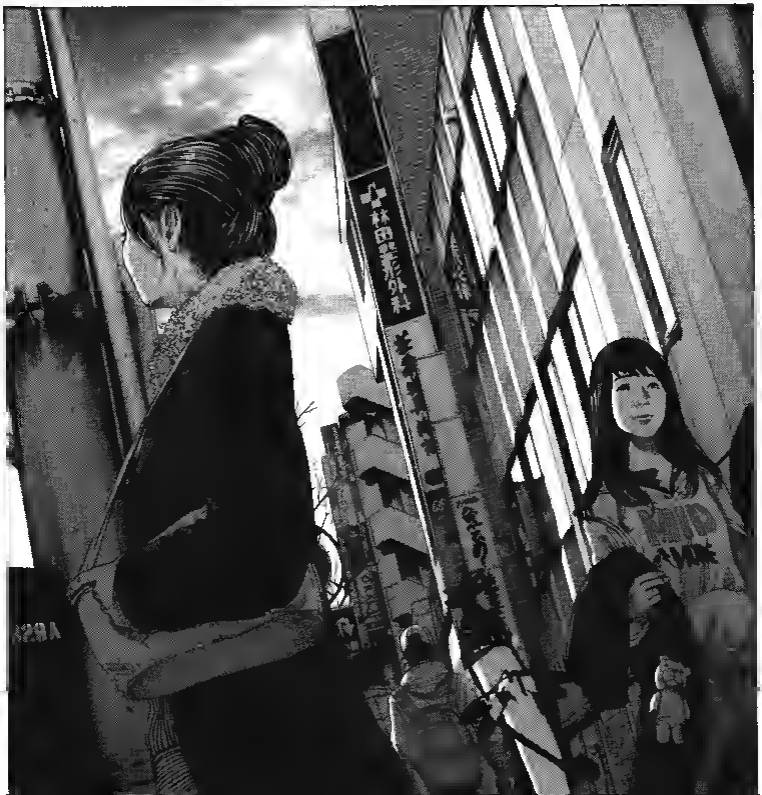
AIKorrr

心で簡単な口座振替で
貯蓄納税連合組合



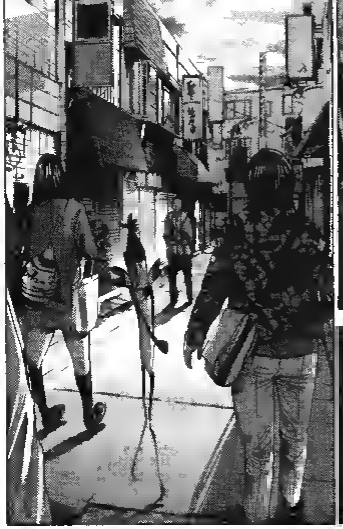
12

安心
7
365


林田整形外科

AIKO,

WAS NOWHERE
TO BE FOUND.



HOWEVER, PUNPUN DID REALIZE ONE THING FOR CERTAIN.

AND THAT WAS THE FACT THAT AIKO WASN'T JUST SOME FIGMENT OF HIS MIND.

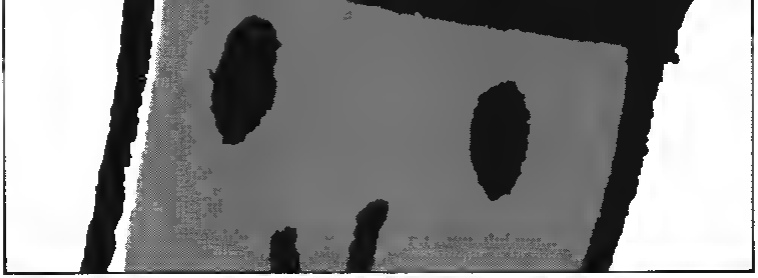
PUNPUN REALIZED THIS SINGLE VERY OBVIOUS FACT.

IN THE SAME WORLD AND IN THE SAME TIME THAT HE HAD BEEN LIVING IN FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.

BUT SHE WAS REALLY LIVING SOMEWHERE OUT THERE,

UNLIKE A CERTAIN SOMEBODY,

AIKO WAS NOW LIVING AS A PROPER ADULT, POSSIBLY SOMEWHERE IN THIS VERY CITY...



JUST WHAT HAVE I
BEEN DOING FOR THE
PAST FEW YEARS?

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S
NOTHING MORE I COULD LOSE...

EVEN THOUGH NOTHING
WILL COME FROM WAITING...

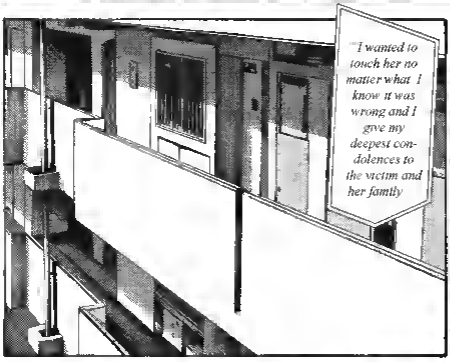
JUST WHAT HAVE
I BEEN SO AFRAID OF...?

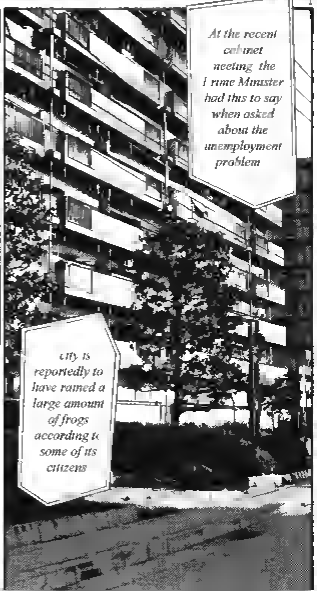
AH,
WELCOME.
PLEASE COME IN AND TAKE A SEAT.

HM?
THE 25,000 YEN ROOM ON THE SIGN OUT FRONT?
WELL, CERTAINLY, I CAN SHOW YOU THE PLACE...

Chapter 74

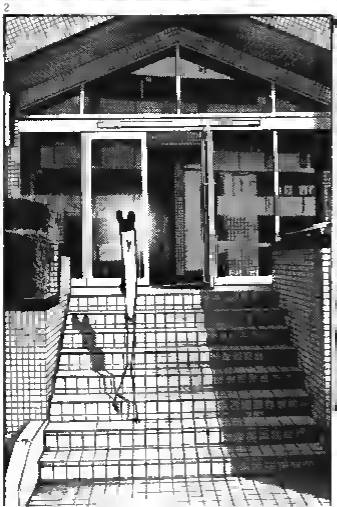
When the police took the 35 year old suspect in for questioning
He claimed he had no intention of killing anyone and that the stabbing was the result of losing control of himself during a sudden outburst of anger


"I wanted to touch her no matter what I know it was wrong and I give my deepest condolences to the victim and her family


At the recent cabinet meeting the Prime Minister had this to say when asked about the unemployment problem
city is reportedly to have rained a large amount of frogs according to some of its citizens

803 ONODERA
And today's guest is a female singer who's on the fast track to stardom

We sincerely apologize to our channel s viewers for the inappropriate comment during our previous programming



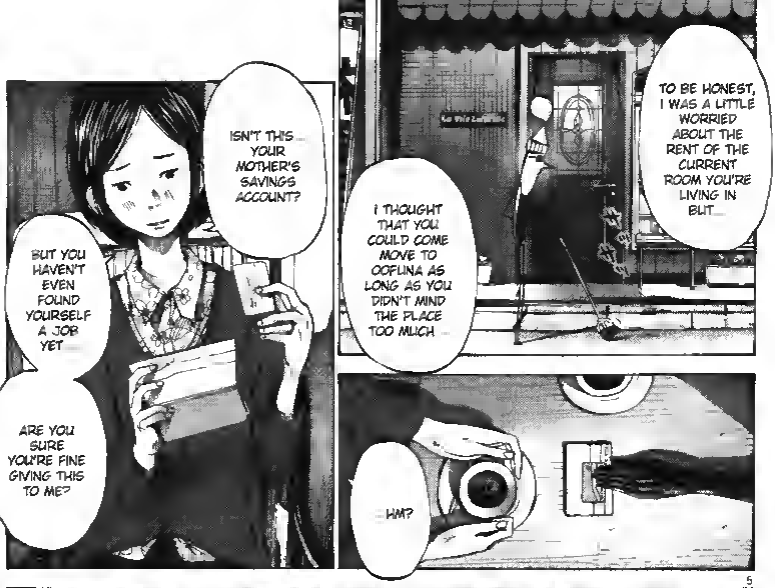
It appears the hot muggy days will continue throughout all of Japan
We wish you all a good weeken

ほほ銀行
CARD SERVICE
ローン契約機設置店

MERE

WHAT!?

YOU...
YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON A PLACE!?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO US ABOUT THIS BEFORE!?
WELL,
I WON'T OBJECT IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT YOU'VE THOUGHT OVER CAREFULLY AND DECIDED,
BUT UMM
YUUICHI!
SAY SOMETHING!
OK!!
I'm No1 Strong guy in USA!!


TO BE HONEST, I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THE RENT OF THE CURRENT ROOM YOU'RE LIVING IN BUT...
I THOUGHT THAT YOU COULD COME MOVE TO OOFUNA AS LONG AS YOU DIDN'T MIND THE PLACE TOO MUCH
HM?
ISN'T THIS... YOUR MOTHER'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT?
BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND YOURSELF A JOB YET...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FINE GIVING THIS TO ME?

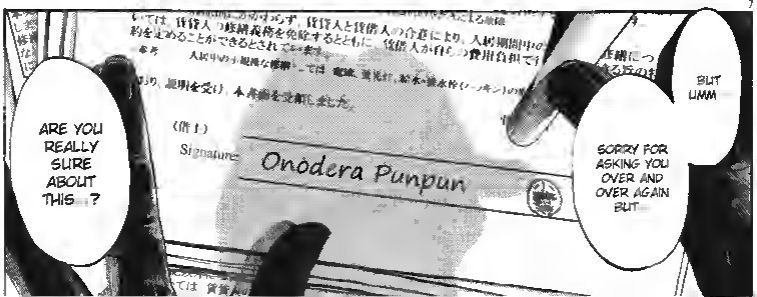
"ABSOLUTELY NOT! I'LL BE PERFECTLY FINE!"
ARE YOU REALLY SURE?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF A BIT TOO HARD?

DELBPO
ワクワク
ソフアップ
コンタクト

0101

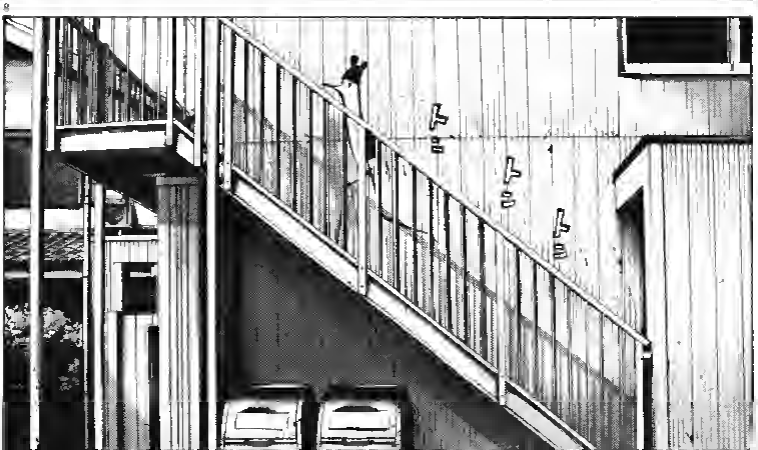
YOU HAVE YOUR SEAL AND THE MONEY WITH YOU, I PRESUME?
AH, WELCOME BACK
穴戸建物
I'LL NOW NEED TO EXPLAIN THE SPECIFICS OF THE CONTRACT SO PLEASE TAKE A SEAT HERE

WELL,
THE PLACE IS CONVENIENTLY CLOSE TO THE TRAIN STATION SO CONSIDERING THE MARKET PRICE, THE RENT IS QUITE LOW
OH YOU NEED TO STAMP YOUR SEAL HERE TOO
AS FOR ANY MAINTENANCE REPAIRS WE'LL HANDLE ALL OF THAT SO JUST LET US KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS AND WE'LL GET IT FIXED RIGHT AWAY


BUT UMM
SORRY FOR ASKING YOU OVER AND OVER AGAIN BUT
ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS...?
Signature: Onodera Punpun

WITH SUCH A SIMPLE ACT, PUNPUN FELT HE HAD BECOME JUST A LITTLE MORE ADULT NOW.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME PUNPUN SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH HIS SEAL AND MONEY.

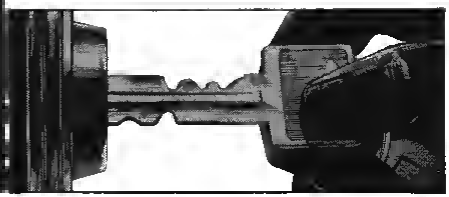


WHETHER THEY CALLED HIM IMMATURE, CREEPY, OR MENTALLY IMBALANCED,

IT WOULDN'T MATTER BECAUSE HE ALREADY KNEW THAT BEST.

EVEN IF SOMEONE WERE TO TALK BEHIND HIS BACK, HE WASN'T ABOUT TO GIVE THEM ANY ATTENTION

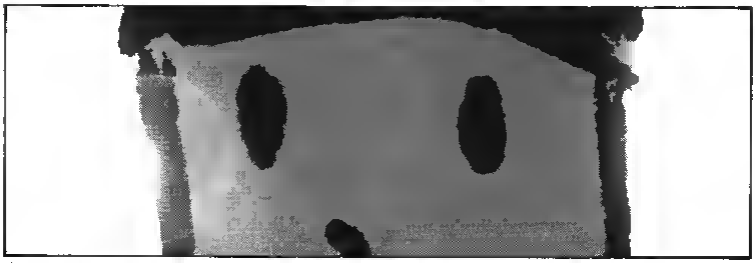
EVEN THOUGH HIS MOTIVES WERE SELFISH AND IMPURE, HE WAS SURPRISED AT HOW ACTIVE HE WAS BEING AT CARRYING OUT HIS GOAL



OPENED EFFORTLESSLY WITH JUST A SINGLE SMALL KEY.

THE UNIMPRESSIVE DOOR OF HIS CHEAP 25,000 YEN APARTMENT,

AH,
PUNPUN!
WELCOME HOME!

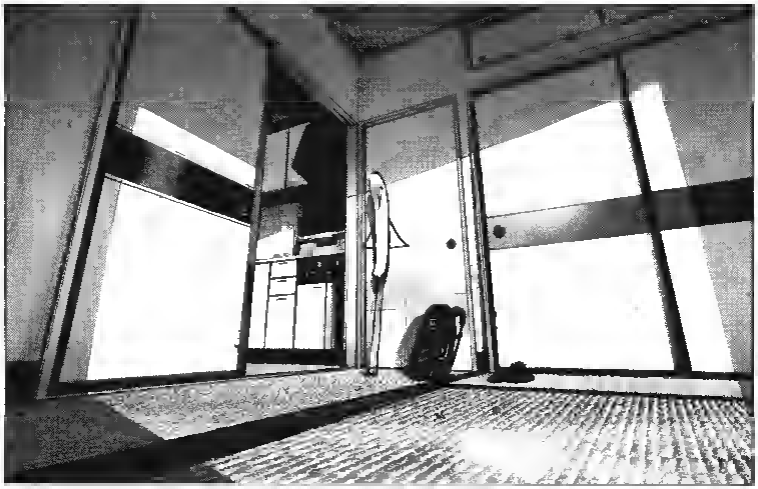


THIS ROOM...

WILL BE A ROOM FOR AIKO AND I TO LIVE TOGETHER IN.

BUT THAT WASN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL FOR HIM AT THE MOMENT

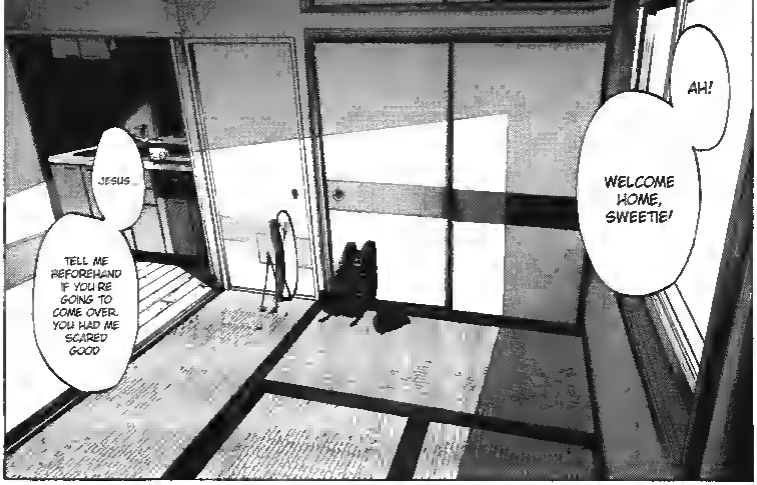
EVEN IF HE DID FIND HER AGAIN, HE DOUBTED HE WOULD ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

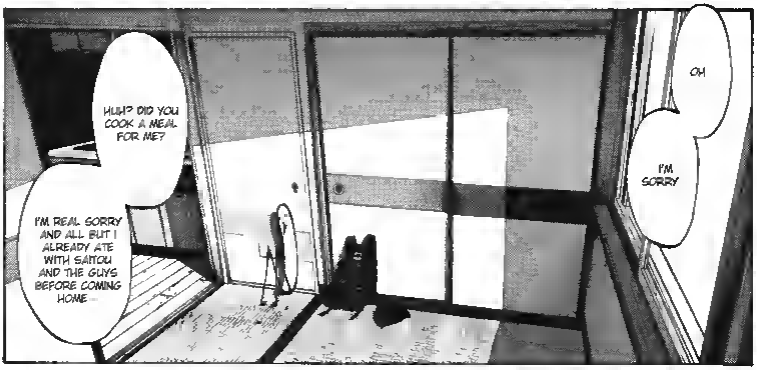


AGHH!

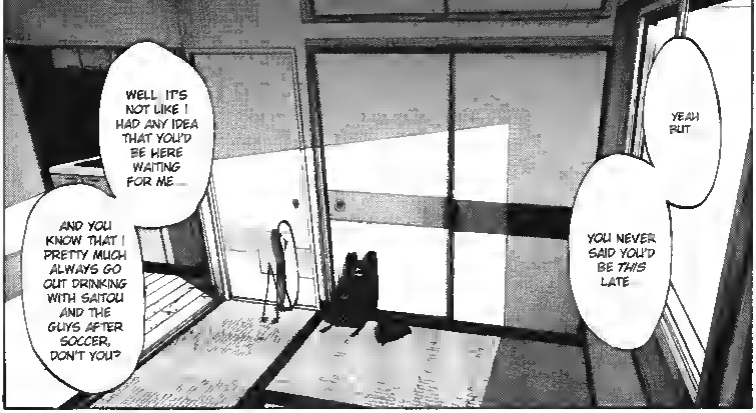
BUT THE MAIN POINT WAS THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY.

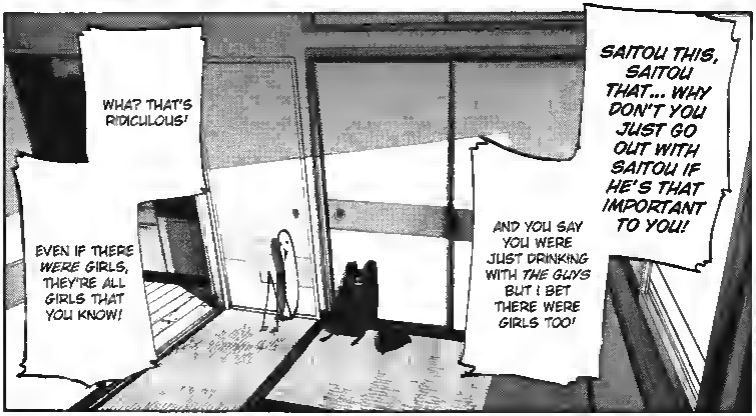
IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO PHRASE IT OUT PROPERLY,

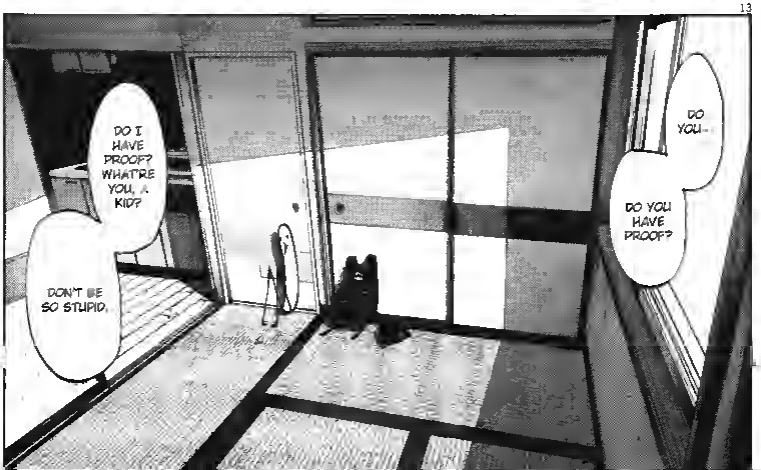

AH!
WELCOME HOME, SWEETIE!
JESUS...
TELL ME BEFOREHAND IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME OVER. YOU HAD ME SCARED GOOD

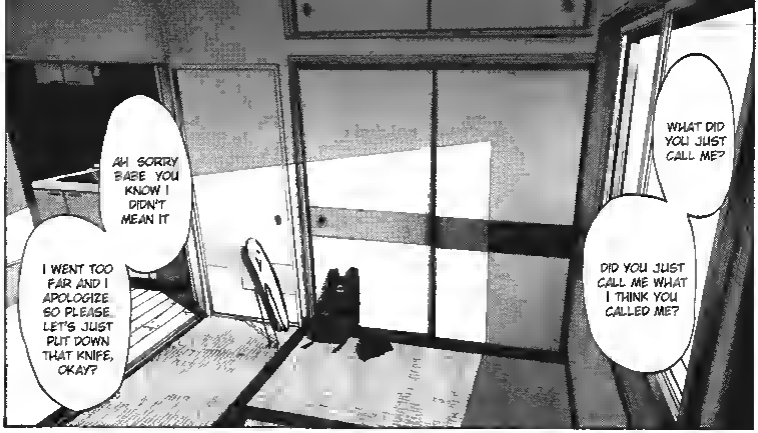

OH
I'M SORRY
HUH? DID YOU COOK A MEAL FOR ME?
I'M REAL SORRY AND ALL BUT I ALREADY ATE WITH SAITOU AND THE GUYS BEFORE COMING HOME...

OH
IT'S FINE I'LL JUST THROW IT ALL OUT THEN
HEY DON'T GET ANGRY NOW!
I ALREADY SAID I WAS GOING TO COME LATE BECAUSE OF SOCCER.

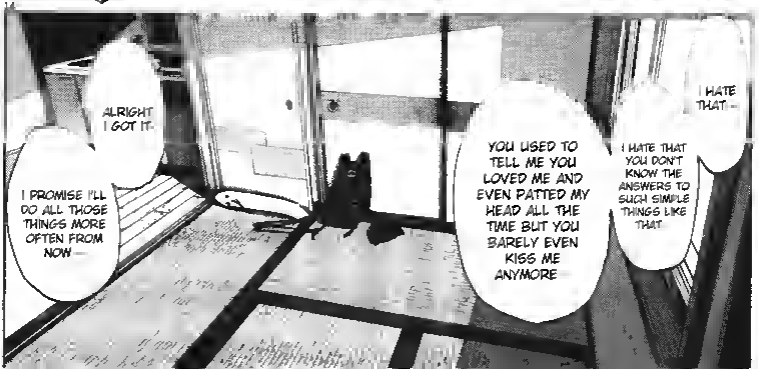

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD ANY IDEA THAT YOU'D BE HERE WAITING FOR ME...
AND YOU KNOW THAT I PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS GO OUT DRINKING WITH SAITOU AND THE GUYS AFTER SOCCER, DON'T YOU?
YEAH BUT
YOU NEVER SAID YOU'D BE THIS LATE


WHAT? THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
EVEN IF THERE WERE GIRLS, THEY'RE ALL GIRLS THAT YOU KNOW!
AND YOU SAY YOU WERE JUST DRINKING WITH THE GUYS BUT I BET THERE WERE GIRLS TOO!
SAITOU THIS, SAITOU THAT... WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO OUT WITH SAITOU IF HE'S THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU!

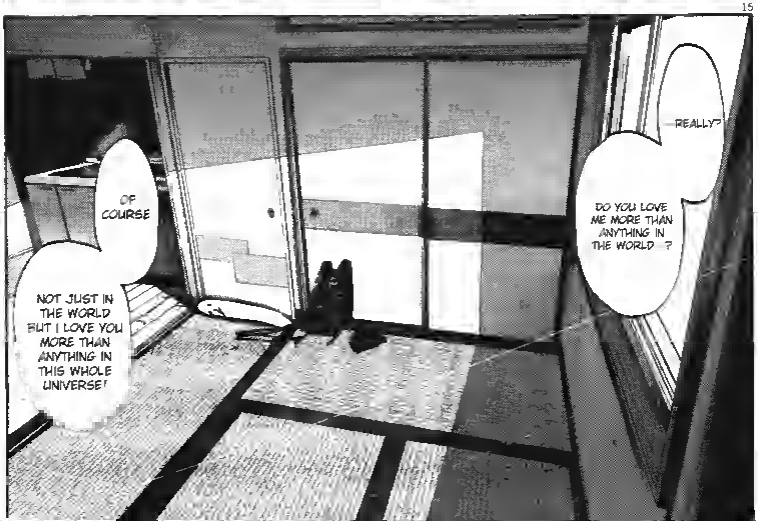

DO I HAVE PROOF? WHAT'RE YOU, A KID?
DON'T BE SO STUPID.
DO YOU...
DO YOU HAVE PROOF?


WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?
DID YOU JUST CALL ME WHAT I THINK YOU CALLED ME?
AH SORRY BABE YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN IT
I WENT TOO FAR AND I APOLOGIZE SO PLEASE, LET'S JUST PUT DOWN THAT KNIFE, OKAY?

NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
I KNOW WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON!
YOU BRING HOME GIRLS THAT YOU WERE OUT DRINKING WITH, DON'T YOU!? THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS TELL ME TO LET YOU KNOW BEFORE COMING OVER, ISN'T IT!?
OH, COME ON!
DO YOU REALLY NOT TRUST ME THAT MUCH!? JUST WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO PLEASE YOU!?

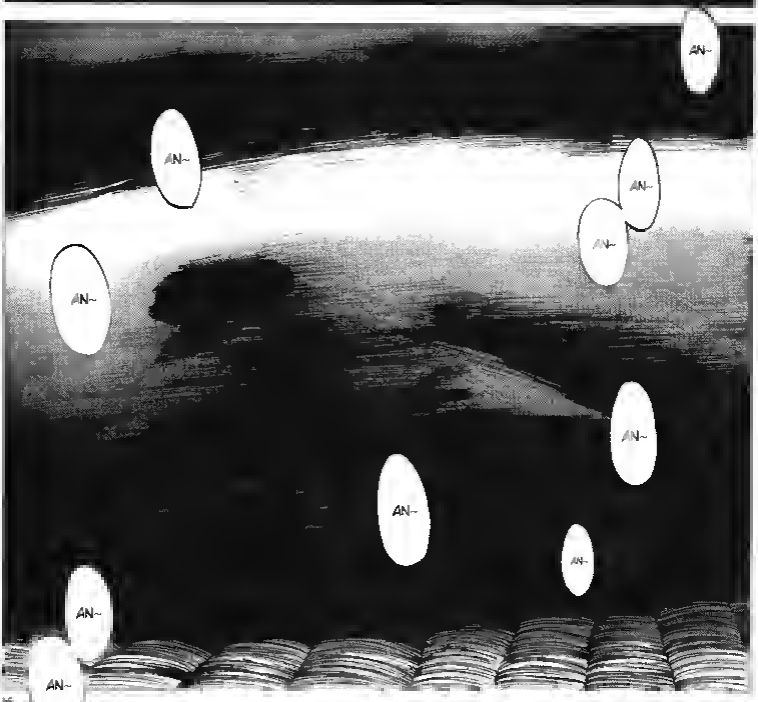

I HATE THAT—
I HATE THAT YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWERS TO SUCH SIMPLE THINGS LIKE THAT
YOU USED TO TELL ME YOU LOVED ME AND EVEN PATTED MY HEAD ALL THE TIME BUT YOU BARELY EVEN KISS ME ANYMORE
ALRIGHT I GOT IT.
I PROMISE I'LL DO ALL THOSE THINGS MORE OFTEN FROM NOW—

...YURIA, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND EVEN THOUGH I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH...
THERE'S NO POINT IF YOU ONLY DO IT WHEN I TELL YOU TO...
NO YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...


...REALLY?
DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...?
OF COURSE
NOT JUST IN THE WORLD BUT I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THIS WHOLE UNIVERSE!

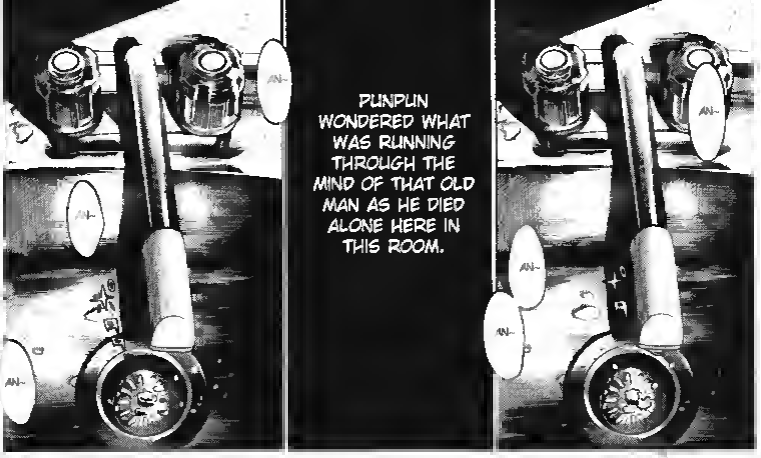
PUNPUN HOPED FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART,

THAT THE LOVEY-DOVEY COUPLE NEXT DOOR WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A DUMBASS AND A BITCH.



IF THEY WEREN'T...

THEN SOMEHOW... THINGS JUST FELT LITTERLY HOPELESS.


AN~
AN~
AN~
PUNPUN WONDERED WHAT WAS RUNNING THROUGH THE MIND OF THAT OLD MAN AS HE DIED ALONE HERE IN THIS ROOM.
AN~
AN~
AN~

AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~

AND AS HE DID, PUNPUN HAD ANOTHER IDEA.

AND THAT IDEA WAS...

2 YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN HE WOULD RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE ROOM...

IF NOTHING HAD CHANGED BY THEN, HE DECIDED HE WOULD KILL HIMSELF.

Chapter 75

MN...
MNN...
LIPS SMACKING

I WANT IT...
I WANT...
JUICY TENDER MEAT...
LIPS SMACKING

2

MN...

I KNOW,
SOMETHING THAT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY YOU

NOW THEN,
LET US FLY OFF INTO THE VAST UNIVERSE—
THE OSCILLATIONS OF YOU AND I ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED BY THE MAJOR SEVENTH—

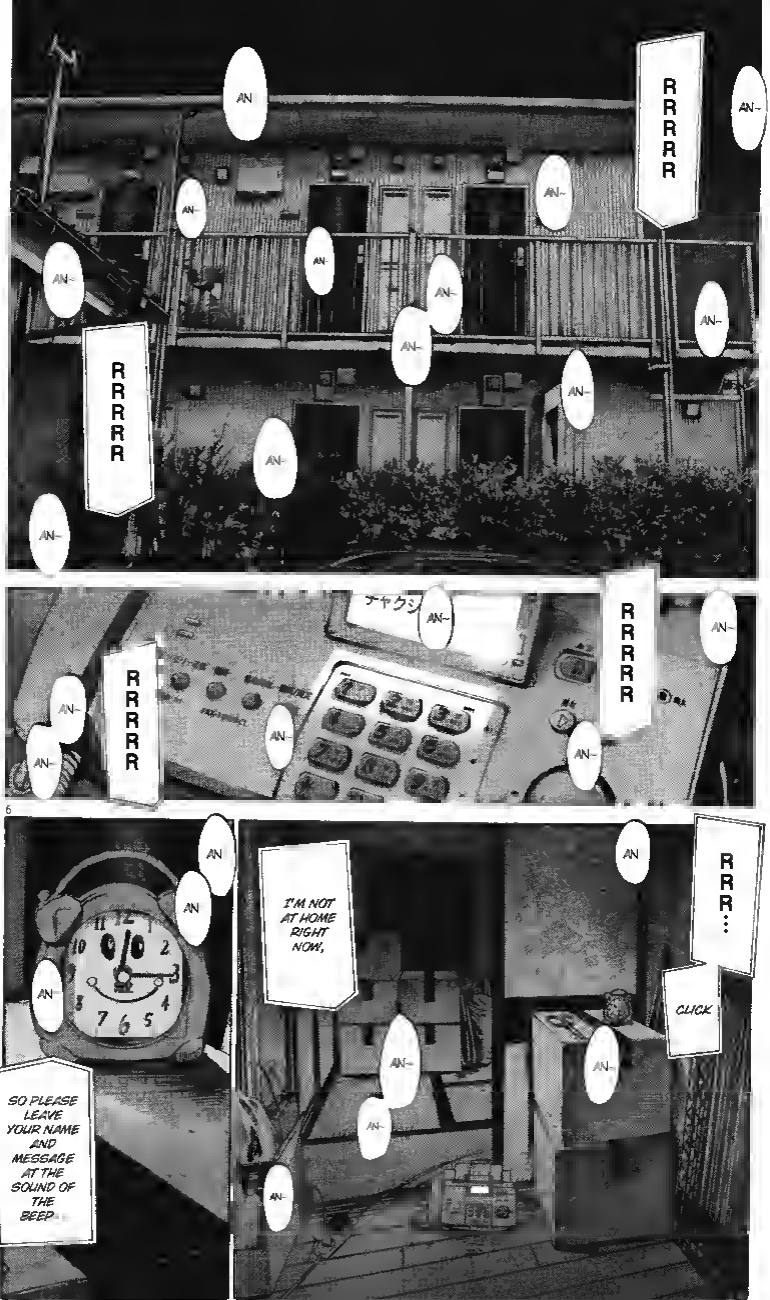
4

MN—
SOWWY—
I'VE GOT A PART-TIME JOB STARTING TODAY—

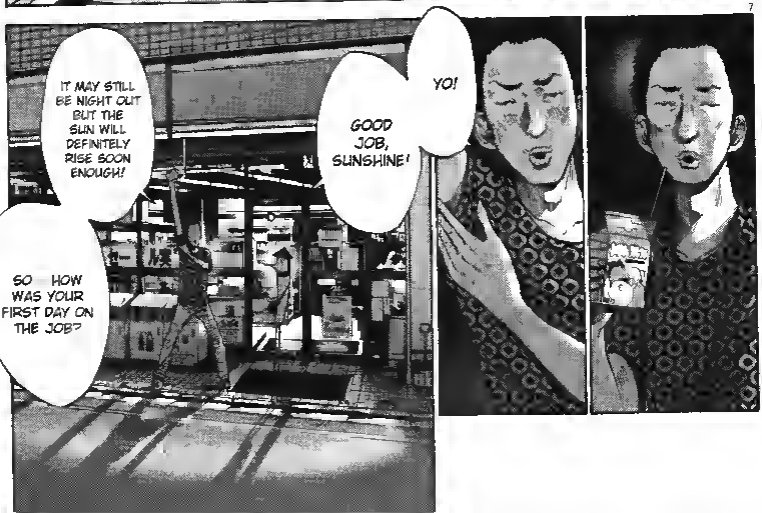
NGHH, DOING MY DAILY SIT-UPS ROUTINE EVEN IN A TIME LIKE THIS~ DAMN, I'M MANLY!
ONE-TWO! ONE-TWO!
OH CRAP!
I'M GONNA BE LATE!

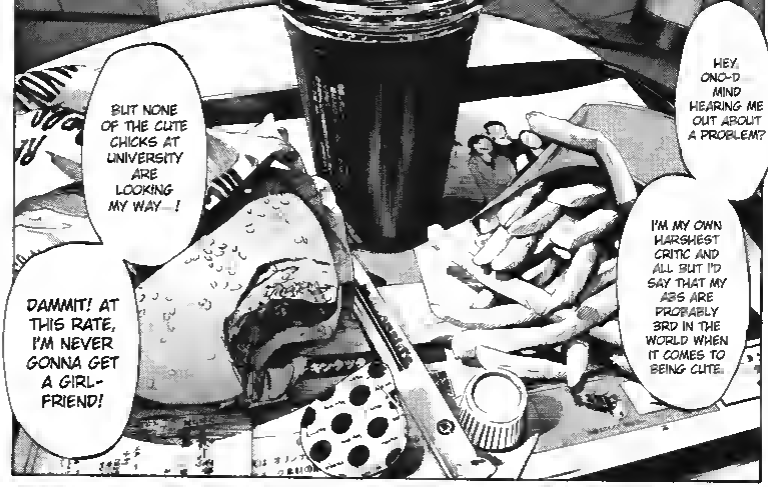
--HM?

AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~
AN~


AN-
RRRRR
AN-
RRRRR
AN-
AN-
AN-

ONODERA! GOOD TO SEE YA!
LET'S DO OUR BEST AT WORK TODAY!


IT MAY STILL BE NIGHT OUT BUT THE SUN WILL DEFINITELY RISE SOON ENOUGH!
SO... HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY ON THE JOB?
GOOD JOB, SUNSHINE!
YO!


HEY, ONO-D MIND HEARING ME OUT ABOUT A PROBLEM?
I'M MY OWN HARSHEST CRITIC AND ALL BUT I'D SAY THAT MY ABS ARE PROBABLY 3RD IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO BEING CUTE.
BUT NONE OF THE CUTE CHICKS AT UNIVERSITY ARE LOOKING MY WAY...!
DAMMIT! AT THIS RATE, I'M NEVER GONNA GET A GIRL-FRIEND!

WHA!?
SO DON'T SWEAT IT...?
THE LARGEST BREASTS RECORDED BY GUINESS WAS 154CM!?
DAMN, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
154CM IS ALMOST HOW TALL MY MOM IS!

I SEE...
THE WORLD REALLY IS FULL OF THE BIZARRE AND UNEXPLAINED
WHAT A MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURE, THIS WORLD IS!
SPEAKING OF BIZARRE EVENTS, I JUST HAD THE WEIRDEST DREAM...
I DREAMT THAT MY ROOM WAS FILLED WITH BRIGHT DIVINE LIGHT!

AND THEN OUT OF NOWHERE APPEARED THIS PINK ELEPHANT...? NO WAIT, MAYBE IT WAS SOME BABE IN A SWIMSUIT.
AGH, I FORGET WHAT EXACTLY APPEARED BUT ANYHOO THIS THING STARTED TALKING TO ME!
HE SAID, "THERE IS STILL MUCH FOR YOU TO DO..." OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
AND AT THAT INSTANT, IT WAS AS IF MY SOUL HAD THIS... DIVINE REVELATION!

WHAT DO I DO...!?
AM I REALLY GOD'S CHOSEN ONE...?
I CAN HEAR IT NOW... THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE CALLING FOR HELP!
DAMN IT, MIMURA YOU IDIOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU REALIZE IT UNTIL TODAY!

...AH
WHAT'S WITH THAT STIFF SMILE YOU'RE GIVING ME?
C'MON MAN I'M GONNA BURST INTO TEARS IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO RESPOND YOU KNOW?

ALRIGHT,
THAT'S ENOUGH JOKING AROUND FOR NOW.
BUT THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING THAT I'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT
I'M AN ECON MAJOR BUT I FEEL LIKE I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ECON.

PARENTS ARE BOTH TEACHERS Y'KNOW?
SO THEN I THOUGHT ABOUT JUST GETTING A TEACHER'S LICENSE EVEN IF IT IS KIND OF A HASSLE
AND IT WAS LIKE, BAM! THIS FOG AROUND ME SUDDENLY CLEARED UP!
I COULD FINALLY SEE THE WIDE ROAD OPENING UP IN FRONT OF ME!

BUT...!
BUT THERE'S JUST THIS SENSE OF HESITANCE LURKING ABOUT...
IS IT REALLY FINE FOR A PERSON'S PATH IN LIFE TO BE SO SIMPLE!?
BUT THEN AGAIN, THERE'S ALSO A PART OF ME THAT JUST WANTS TO ABANDON MY DESIRE TO LIVE IN THE FAST LANE...!

YOU SEEM SO CAREFREE AND WITHOUT ANY WORRIES...
DON'T YOU EVER FEEL INSECURE? WHERE DO YOU GET THAT CONFIDENCE OF YOURS?
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO FREE,
AND NOT TIED DOWN BY ANYONE OR ANYPLACE.
MUST BE NICE BEING YOU!

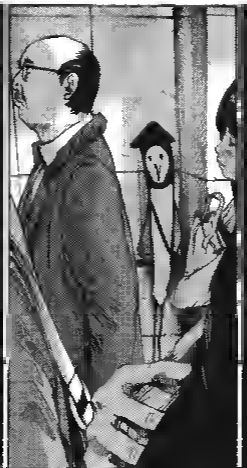
BUT! UNLIKE YOU, I'M JUST A DREAMER AT HEART!
MAD RESPECTS TO YOU AND YOUR LIFE-STYLE, BRO!
IS THAT JUST WHAT BEING COOL IS ALL ABOUT, ONO-D?

I WANNA BECOME THE KING OF UR[illegible]HARA BY POPULARIZING MY BARE MIDRIFF LOOK!
AND THEN BECOME A WELL KNOWN FACE ON THOSE FOOD SHOWS SO I CAN GO TO AKASAKA AND HAVE SOME CHANKO NABE!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE YOUNG OUGHTTA H[illegible]VE DREAMS!

ALTHOUGH PUNPUN DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THE POINT OF HAVING DREAMS THAT COULD NEVER COME TRUE WAS...

AH, IT'S ALREADY MORNING.

BEING COOL WAS MERELY A PAPER-THIN DIFFERENCE AWAY FROM BEING EMPTY.



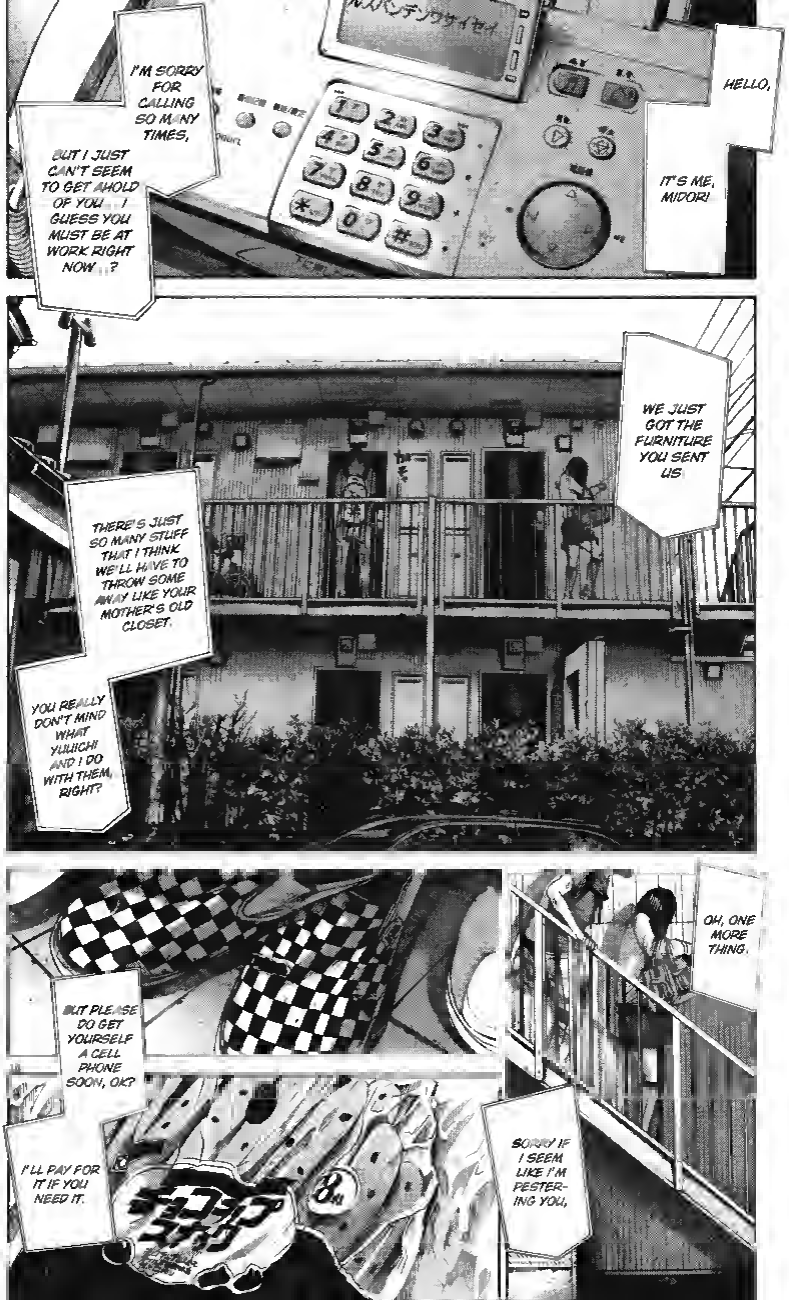
TO HAVE DREAMS AND WORRIES THAT YOU COULD TALK FRANKLY ABOUT...

IN A WAY, THAT WAS PROBABLY A MORE FULFILLING LIFESTYLE THAN HIS OWN, PUNPUN ADMITTED.

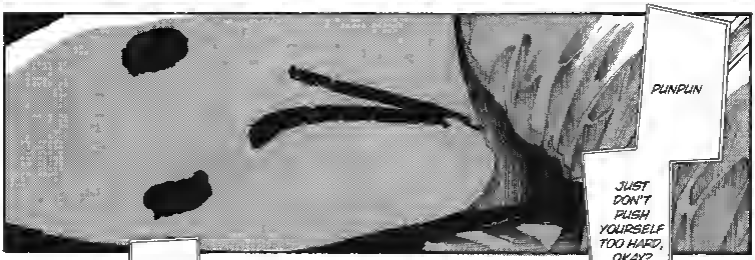
PUNPUN...

YOU HAVE 1 MESSAGE FROM 12:15.

FAILED TO FIND AIKO AGAIN TODAY.


HELLO,
IT'S ME, MIDORI.
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING SO MANY TIMES,
BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET AHOLD OF YOU... I GUESS YOU MUST BE AT WORK RIGHT NOW...?
WE JUST GOT THE FURNITURE YOU SENT US.
THERE'S JUST SO MANY STUFF THAT I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO THROW SOME AWAY LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S OLD CLOSET.
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND WHAT YUUICHI AND I DO WITH THEM, RIGHT?
OH, ONE MORE THING.
BUT PLEASE DO GET YOURSELF A CELL PHONE SOON, OK?
I'LL PAY FOR IT IF YOU NEED IT.
SORRY IF I SEEM LIKE I'M PESTERING YOU,

I KNOW YOU'RE A DEPENDABLE BOY SO I'M NOT TOO WORRIED BUT...
BUT JUST IN CASE...
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, DON'T YOU?


PUNPUN
JUST DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, OKAY?

I...
I THINK IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU LET OTHERS HELP YOU OUT A BIT MORE...

PUNPUN WAS VERY EXHAUSTED AGAIN TODAY.

.....
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
WE'VE RECEIVED A REPORT ABOUT A MAN WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING HERE SINCE LAST NIGHT SO...
AH GOOD, YOU WOKE UP.
WHO? WE'RE POLICEMEN, OF COURSE.
DID YOU PERHAPS HAVE A BIT TOO MUCH TO DRINK?

THAT'S WONDERFUL!
A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!
I GIVE YOU MY EARNEST SUPPORT TO YOU MEN!

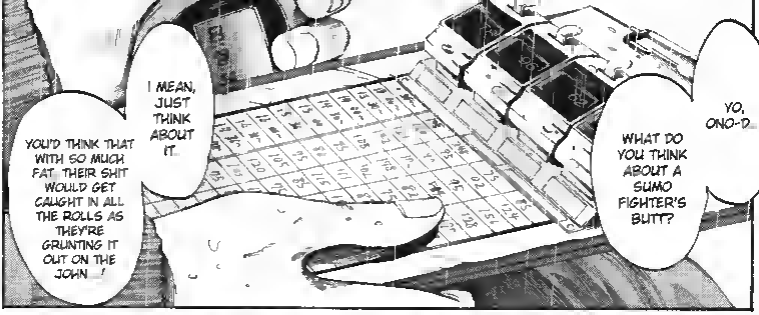
NOW THEN,
I MUST BE GOING NOW.

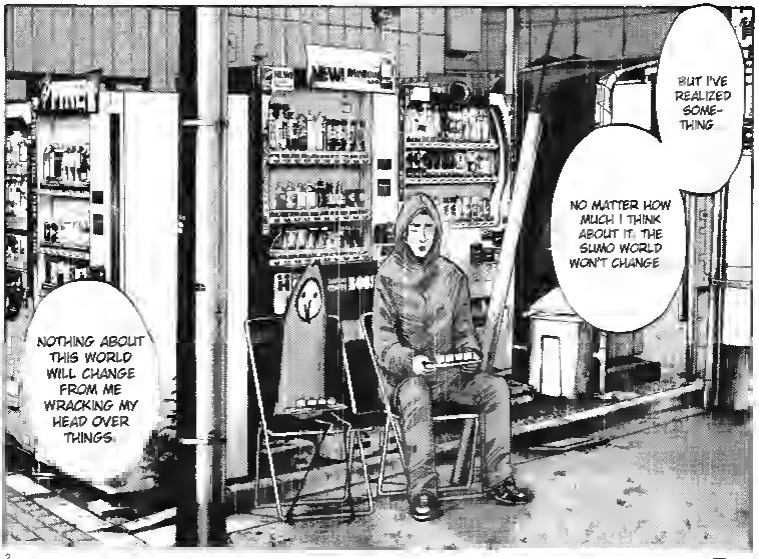
MIRAGE MODE ACTIVATE!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!

Chapter 76

HM?
WHY'RE YOU STARING SO INTENTLY AT MY FACE...?
IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
IF YOU'RE GONNA COMMENT ON HOW SEXY I LOOK, I ALREADY KNOW.

WHAT, YOU KNOW I'M ALWAYS FULL OF ENERGY!
MIMURA MISSILE FIRE!
IF I ONLY HAD A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE SUMMER WOULD BEGIN, IT'D BE NO EXAGGERATION TO CALL ME INVINCIBLE!
HEY, WE SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK, ONO-D!

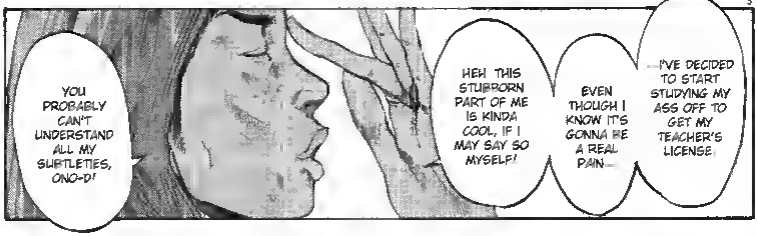

YO, ONO-D...
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT A SUMO FIGHTER'S BUTT?
I MEAN, JUST THINK ABOUT IT...
YOU'D THINK THAT WITH SO MUCH FAT, THEIR SHIT WOULD GET CAUGHT IN ALL THE ROLLS AS THEY'RE GRUNTING IT OUT ON THE JOHN...!


BUT I'VE REALIZED SOME-THING
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT, THE SUMO WORLD WON'T CHANGE
NOTHING ABOUT THIS WORLD WILL CHANGE FROM ME WRACKING MY HEAD OVER THINGS.

2

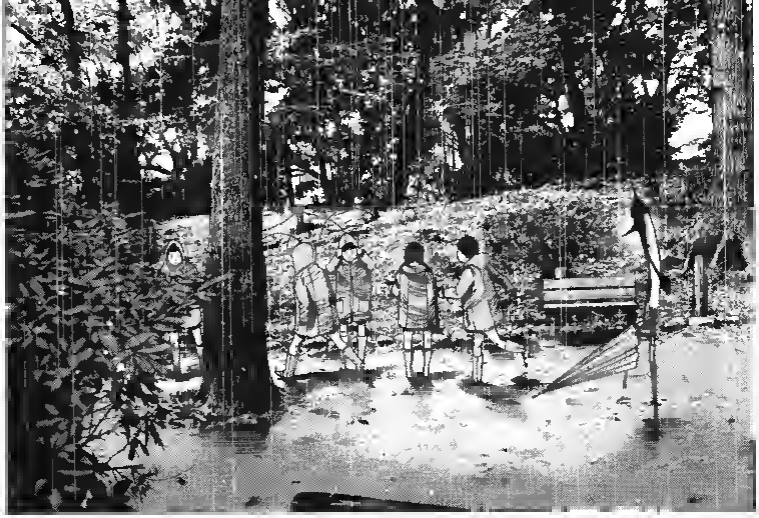
... AND SIMILARILY,
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK, IT JUST SEEMS LIKE THIS WORLD WON'T EVER BE PEACEFUL...
I'VE ALWAYS PONDERED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE...
THEN AGAIN, I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T EVEN CONTINUE ON NORMALLY WITH MY LIFE UNLESS I FIND OUT THE ANSWERS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS THAT POPS UP!

YOU KNOW, ONO-D...
I WISH I COULD JUST STAY A KID NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS..
AND JUST TO MAKE THINGS CLEAR, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF WOMEN OR ANYTHING, ALRIGHT?
BUT TIME'S SUCH A CRUEL THING...
EVEN IF YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO RESIST YOU CAN STILL SLOWLY FEEL YOURSELF TURNING INTO AN ADULT...

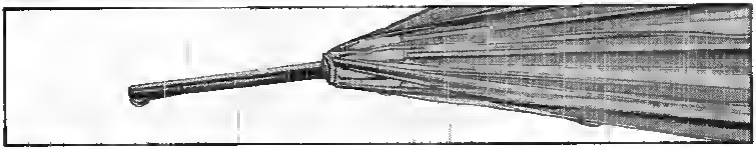

...I'VE DECIDED TO START STUDYING MY ASS OFF TO GET MY TEACHER'S LICENSE.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE A REAL PAIN...
HEH! THIS STUBBORN PART OF ME IS KINDA COOL, IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF!
YOU PROBABLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND ALL MY SUBTLETIES, ONO-D!

GOOD WORK, SUNSET!
I'VE DECIDED TO SPEND THE NIGHT DOING PAINFUL SIT-UPS WHILE CRYING!
THE YOUNG GROW BIG FROM FROLICKING WITH THE NIGHT, YOU KNOW!

THE CHILDREN PASSED BY, LAUGHING INNOCENTLY.

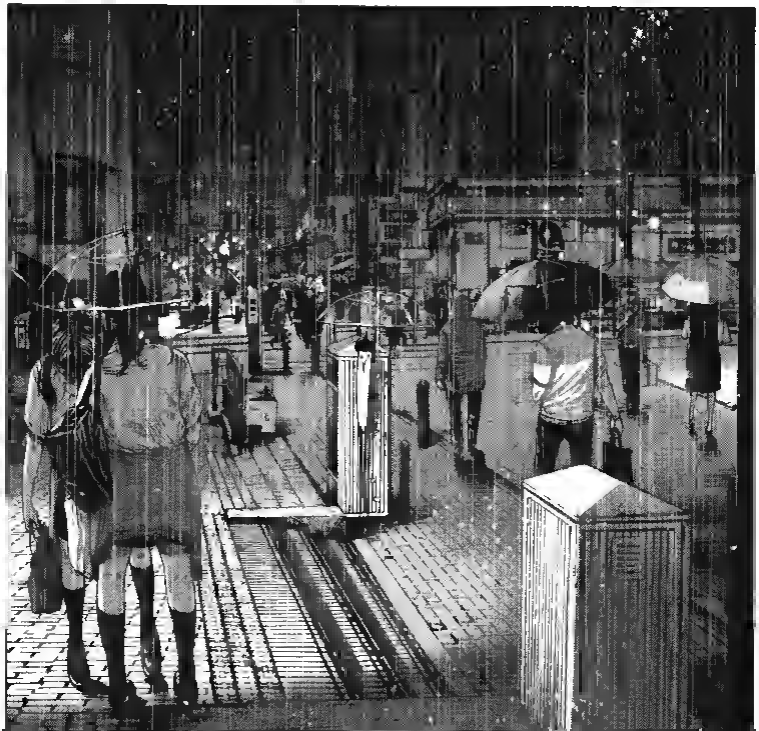


THINKING ABOUT HOW THESE CHILDREN'S HEADS WERE FULL OF BRIGHT HOPES AND DREAMS WAS ENOUGH TO DRIVE PUNPUN TO...



...NO, NEVER MIND. IT DROVE HIM TO NOTHING AT ALL.

IN ANY CASE,



FIND HER,

FIND HER.

THE MORE PUNPUN THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT THIS SUMMER SHOWER COULDN'T LAST FOREVER, THE MORE THE DOWNPOUR SEEMED TO CONTINUE ENDLESSLY WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF STOPPING.

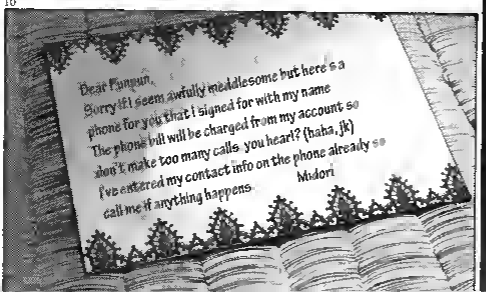
BUT AIKO WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

ONO-DERA!
YOU SEEM SO WEARY TODAY!
ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP? HAHA!
ONODERA!
YOU ARE STILL A VIRGIN, RIGHT?
HA, I CAN JUST TELL BY THAT GLOOMY LOOK YOU'RE GIVING ME!
BUT DON'T WORRY THAT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! IN FACT, I'M JEALOUS AT HOW YOU'VE GOT AN ENTIRE WORLD THAT'S WAITING TO BE EXPLORED!

YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY GO OUT AND HAVE SOME SEX!
IT FEELS GREAT, YOU KNOW!
THE MINOR QUIBBLES AND WORRIES OF YOUTH CAN ALL BE SOLVED WITH SEX!
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

I PERSONALLY THINK THAT FINE TEENAGE GIRLS ARE ONE OF THE BEST THINGS HUMANITY HAS TO OFFER!
YOU ARE STILL 18, RIGHT ONODERA?
COURSE I'D BE FINE WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL OR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS AS WELL!
IF YOU'RE EVER GOING TO A MIXER, BE SURE TO INVITE ME TOO, OK?
IF YOU DO, I'LL BE SURE TO SHOW YOU SUREFIRE TIPS ON HOW TO SCORE! HAHA!
HM? YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL?
ALRIGHT, JUST LEAVE THE REST TO ME! NO NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF, JUST GO HOME AND GET SOME REST!
I'LL TELL THE MANAGER WHAT HAPPENED SO DON'T WORRY!
AND DON'T FORGET WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER, ALRIGHT!?
消火栓

kashikomo

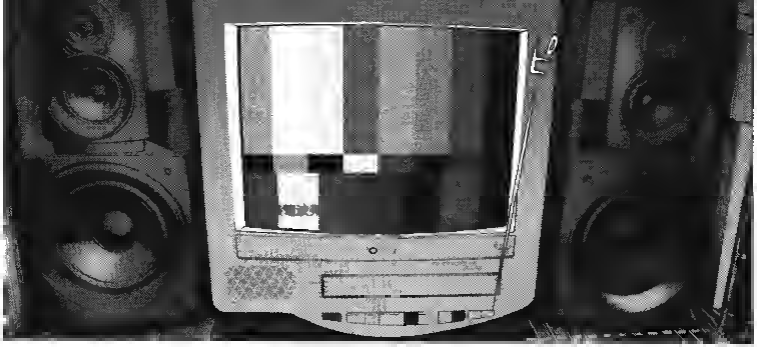

Dear Pyupun,
Sorry if I seem awfully meddlesome but here's a phone for you that I signed for with my name. The phone bill will be charged from my account so don't make too many calls, you hear? (haha, jk) I've entered my contact info on the phone already so call me if anything happens.
Midori

HE KNEW THAT OTHERS DIDN'T HAVE IT IN FOR HIM OR ANYTHING, BUT THAT WASN'T THE PROBLEM

IT WASN'T THAT KIND OF PROBLEM.

HE WOULD CHANT, "DEAR GOD, DEAR GOD, TINKLE-TINKLE HOY," AND...

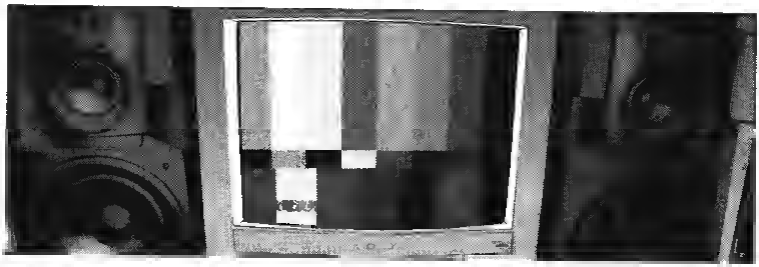
IN TIMES LIKE THESE,



I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

...YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

AH.



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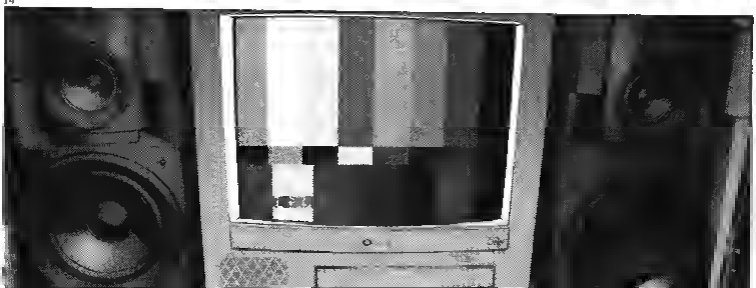

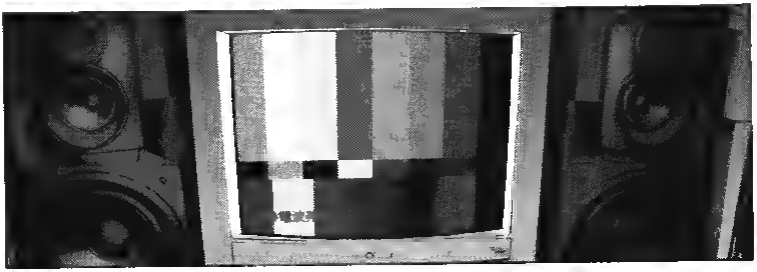

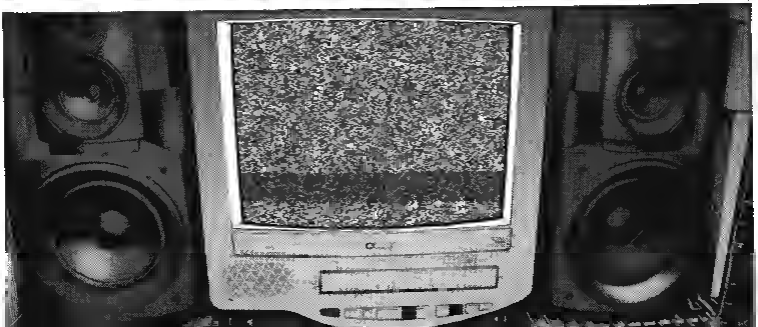

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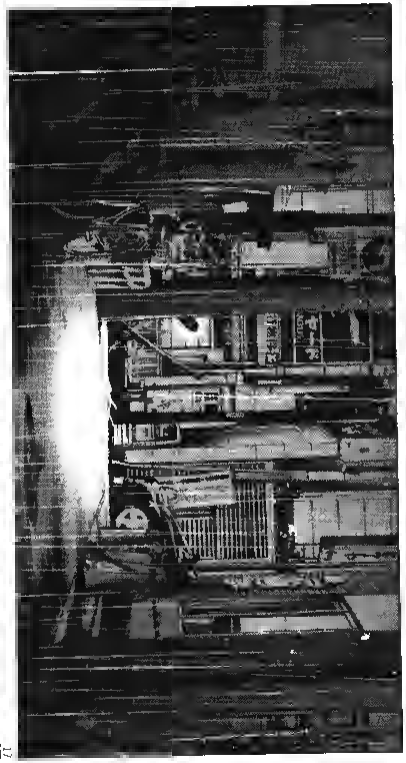
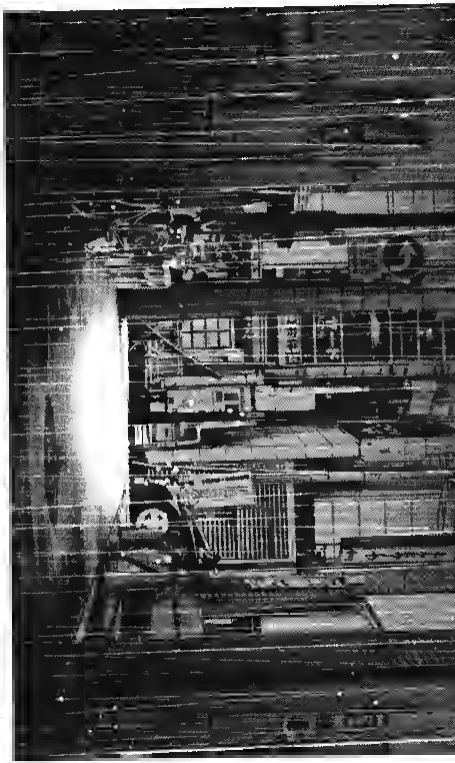

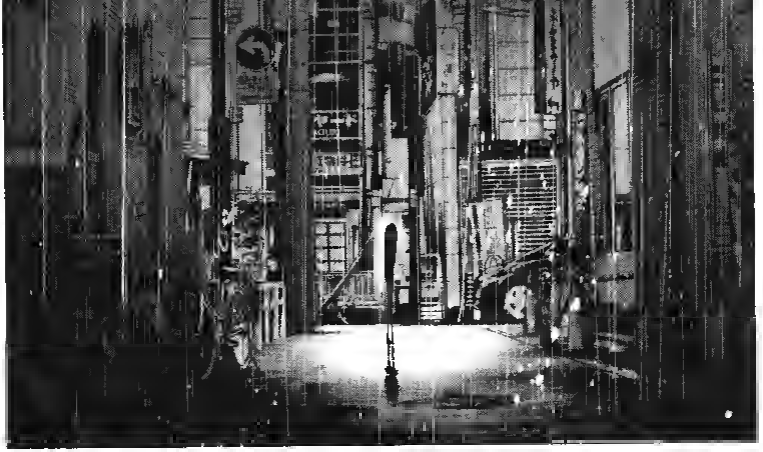

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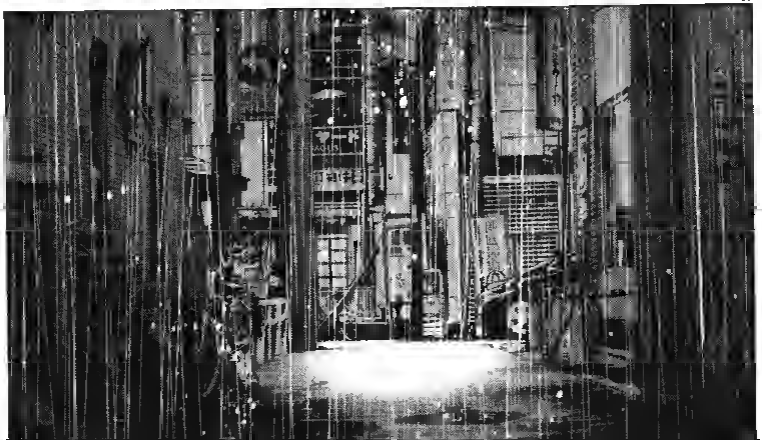
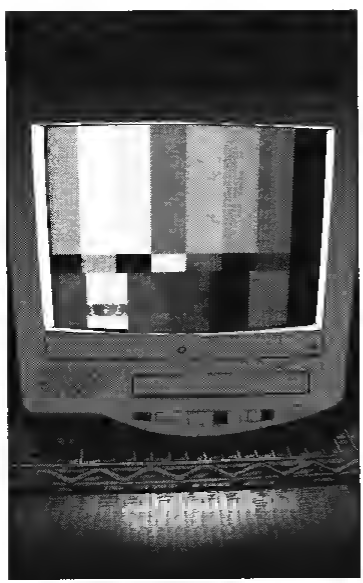
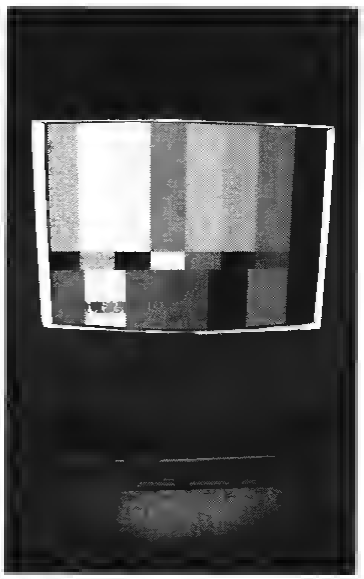


AARGBG
HHTFL!





Chapter 77

THE RAIN,

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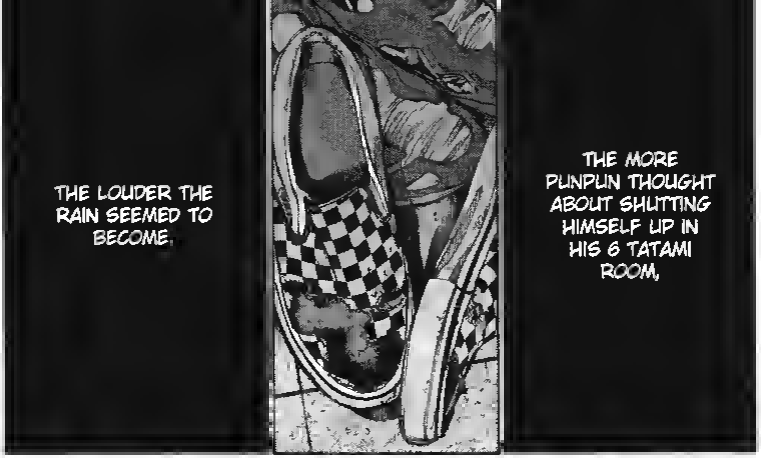
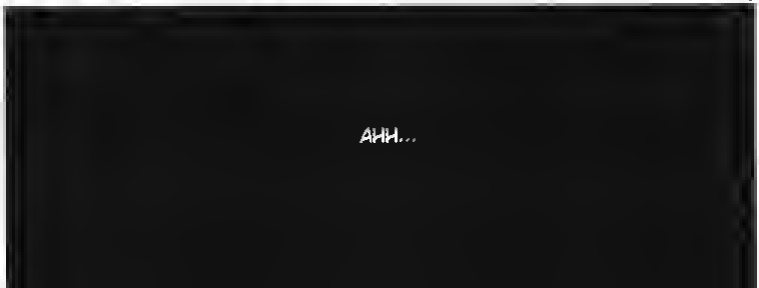
CONTINUED ON ENDLESSLY AS IF IT HAD FORGOTTEN HOW TO STOP.


THE LOUDER THE RAIN SEEMED TO BECOME,
THE MORE PUNPUN THOUGHT ABOUT SHUTTING HIMSELF UP IN HIS 6 TATAMI ROOM,


AHH...

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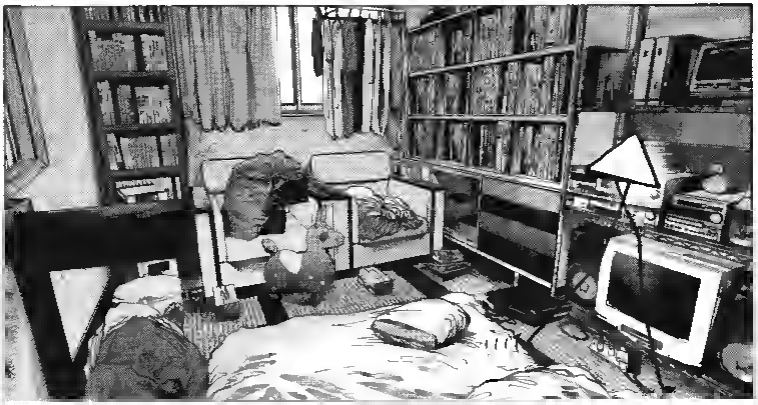
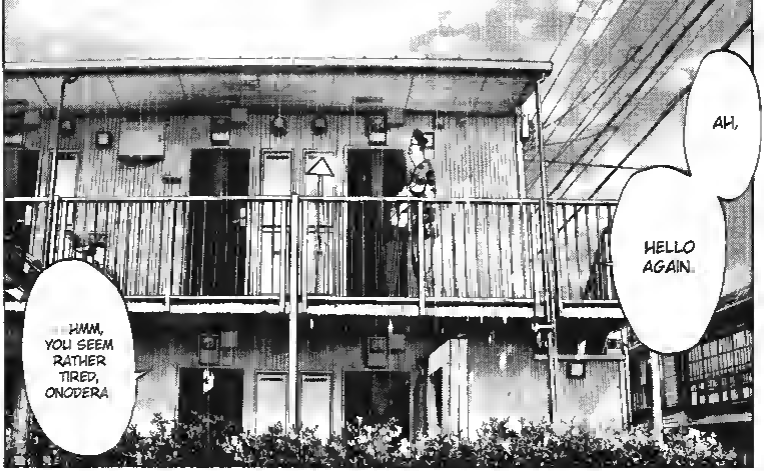
PUNPUN IS...



FEELING JUST FINE
AGAIN TODAY.


AH,
HELLO AGAIN.
...HMM, YOU SEEM RATHER TIRED, ONODERA

AH NO,
I'M NOT HERE TO COLLECT RENT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW YOU WERE FINDING THE PLACE...

...ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A BIT IF POSSIBLE
REALLY, NO PROBLEMS AT ALL? WELL THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR
HM? OH NO PARTICULAR REASON JUST ASKING FROM THE CONCERNED HEART OF AN OLD MAN...

OH, IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS I JUST WANTED TO CHAT A LITTLE
NOBODY'LL COME TO THIS REAL ESTATE OFFICE DURING THE RAIN, ANYWAYS
ONODERA,
I'M THINKING OF ORDERING EEL FOR LUNCH ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?

HM?
WELL AREN'T YOU QUITE MODEST FOR A YOUNG ONE!
DON'T WORRY I SHOULD AT LEAST TREAT YOU TO THIS MUCH CONSIDERING THAT I'M FORCING YOU TO SPEND YOUR FREE TIME WITH AN OLD MAN LIKE ME

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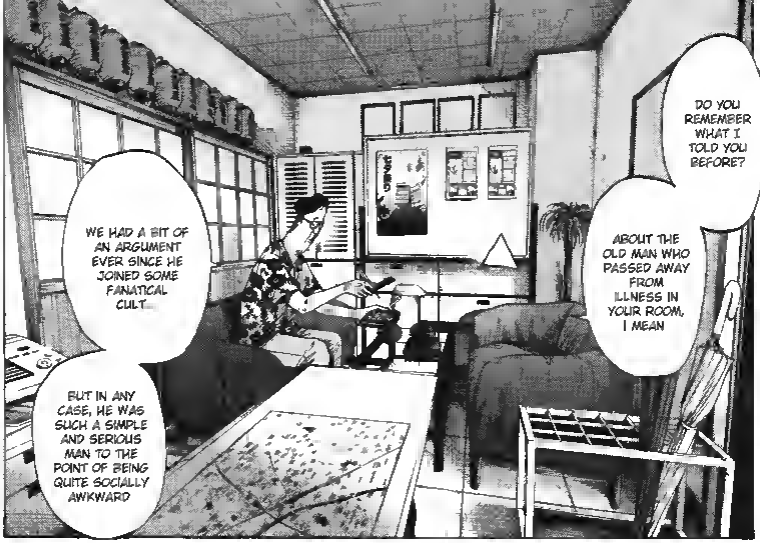
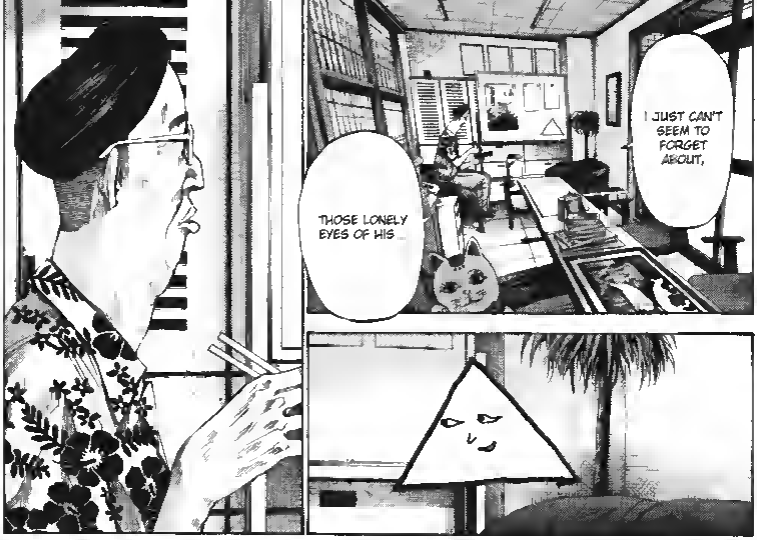

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE?
ABOUT THE OLD MAN WHO PASSED AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN YOUR ROOM, I MEAN
WE HAD A BIT OF AN ARGUMENT EVER SINCE HE JOINED SOME FANATICAL CULT...
BUT IN ANY CASE, HE WAS SUCH A SIMPLE AND SERIOUS MAN TO THE POINT OF BEING QUITE SOCIALLY AWKWARD

...HE REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF YOU ACTUALLY
SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR EYES OR THE VERY ATMOSPHERE ABOUT YOU

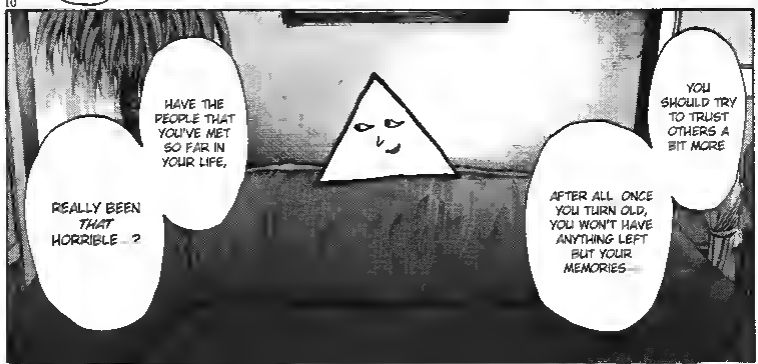
I KNOW IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING NOW BUT...
A PART OF ME WONDERS IF I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO REACH OUT AND HELP HIM MORE...
IT'S JUST THAT HE'S BEEN STUCK IN MY MIND...
AH, MY BAD
I CERTAINLY DIDN'T MEAN TO DEPRESS YOU WITH MY TALK OR ANYTHING

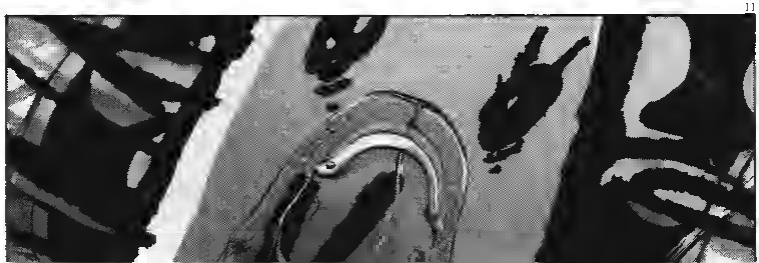

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FORGET ABOUT,
THOSE LONELY EYES OF HIS...

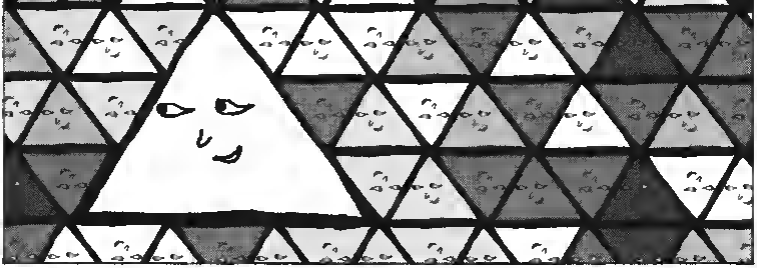
YES...
YOU DO HAVE THE SAME EYES AS HIM.
THAT LONELY BUT UNEXPECTEDLY RESOLUTE STARE...
YOU COULD EVEN SAY IT LOOKED ALMOST STUBBORN.

A GAZE THAT PREVENTED HIS HEART FROM OPENING OUT TO ANYBODY...
I CAN SEE THAT VERY SAME LOOK IN YOUR EYES...

JUST WHY IS IT...?
DID YOU PERHAPS HAPPEN TO BE CRUELLY BETRAYED BY SOMEONE
OR WERE YOU THE ONE WHO BETRAYED THAT PERSON, I WONDER...
OF COURSE, I WON'T PRESS YOU FOR ANY ANSWERS BUT...


YOU SHOULD TRY TO TRUST OTHERS A BIT MORE
AFTER ALL ONCE YOU TURN OLD, YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT BUT YOUR MEMORIES...
HAVE THE PEOPLE THAT YOU'VE MET SO FAR IN YOUR LIFE,
REALLY BEEN *THAT* HORRIBLE...?





PER-
SON-
ALLY
I CHOOSE TO ALWAYS BELIEVE IN PEOPLE UNTIL THEY OUTRIGHT BETRAY ME
FOR YOU SEE DOUBTING SOMEONE WOULD ONLY FOSTER ILL WILL
SO IF THEY WERE TO BETRAY ME I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE HURT AND I'M FINE WITH THAT—

IF YOU CONTINUE TO KEEP THAT VERY LOOK IN YOUR EYES,
NO ONE WILL COME TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU MOST NEED IT, YOU KNOW?
BY THE WAY...
ARE YOU A LITTLE STRAPPED FOR CASH, ONODERA?

BECAUSE IF IT'S A JOB YOU NEED...
AH!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, TRYING TO GIVE A JOB TO A COMPLETE STRANGER.

YOU'RE TOO SOFT-HEARTED FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BY LENDING MONEY OUT TO UNTRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE!?
AND YOU THERE, BOY!
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG SO YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING MORE PRODUCTIVE WITH YOUR TIME THAN IDLY CHATTING WITH AN OLD MAN!

WHEW
TALK ABOUT SCARY

SNACK BAR
ISOJIMAN

THAT GIRL'S MY DAUGHTER.
AND THOUGH SHE MIGHT RESEMBLE ME IN HER LOOKS HER PERSONALITY IS A BIT...
I DISLIKE BEING AROUND CRABBY WOMEN

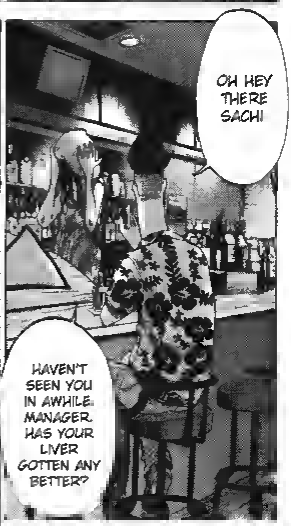
OH, DON'T WORRY.
JUST THINK OF IT AS A FIELD TRIP OF SORTS

DO YOU LIKE DRINKING ONODERA?
HM? YOU'VE NEVER DRANK BEFORE?
WELL IF YOU FEEL LIKE DRINK[illegible] JUST ASK.
MAMA, CAN I GET A GINGER ALE MIXED WITH SOME HOT WATER?

FUNNY STORY,
THIS LAD HERE THOUGHT A [illegible] BAR WAS THE SAME THING AS A PINK SALON BEFORE COMING IN
HAHA.
AIN'T THAT KIND OF CUTE?

UGH,
I'M TOTALLY DRENCHED!
MUMMUR
I NEED A TOWEL OVER HERE!

NO, NOT REALLY BUT I'M STILL DRINKING
I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN JUST LAZING AROUND EVER SINCE QUITTING YOUR JOB AT THE SHOP


OH HEY THERE SACHI
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AWHILE, MANAGER. HAS YOUR LIVER GOTTEN ANY BETTER?

THERE YOU START AGAIN.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I ACTUALLY DROP BY HERE USUALLY ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK.

AFTER ALL, IT'S EASY TO SCORE SOME FREE DRINKS AROUND HERE JUST BY TALKING IT UP WITH SOME PERVERTED OLD MEN
OH, SO YOU'VE FOUND A JOB?

YEAH, I'M TUTORING AT THIS CRAM-SCHOOL NOW I CAN'T JUST FEIGN DEPRESSION AND LIE ON MY ASS ALL DAY NOW CAN I?
GIVE ME A GLASS OF WATER OVER HERE
GOOD, GOOD!

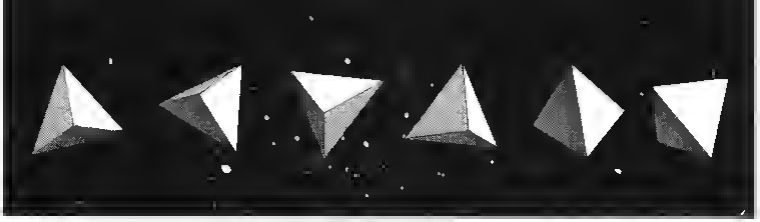
SO...
WHO'S THE KID SITTING NEXT TO YOU? IS HE YOUR FRIEND?
AH, THAT'S ONODERA. HE'S ONE OF MY TENANTS.

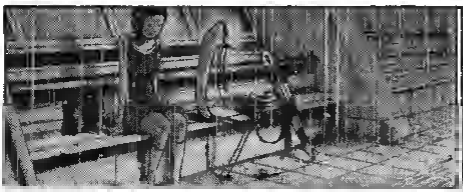
HI THERE.
I'M NANJOU SACHI.

HM?
WAIT...

DID WE...
MEET BEFORE SOMEWHERE?

MNN...
I'M,
DEFINITELY SURE I'VE SEEN YOU SOME-WHERE BEFORE...
AH!
I REMEM-BERED!
WHEN WAS IT AGAIN ...?
I THINK I WAS 19 BACK THEN SO... 3 YEARS AGO?
YOU'RE THAT BOY WHO CAME WITH AZUSA TO SEE THE ART EXHIBIT. AREN'T YOU!?





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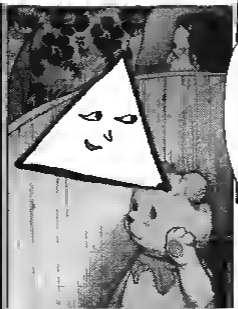
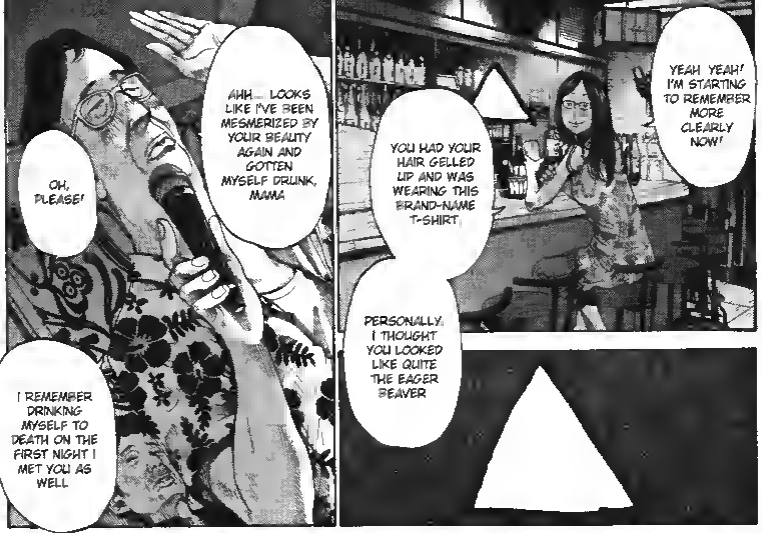
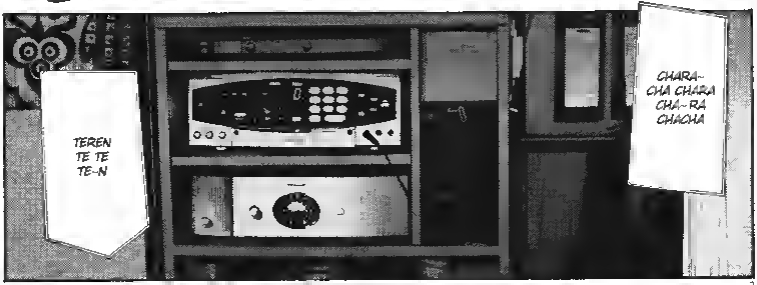
"...IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?"

PUNPUN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TOO TROUBLESOME SO HE FEIGNED IGNORANCE.




OH, PLEASE!
AHH... LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN MESMERIZED BY YOUR BEAUTY AGAIN AND GOTTEN MYSELF DRUNK, MAMA
I REMEMBER DRINKING MYSELF TO DEATH ON THE FIRST NIGHT I MET YOU AS WELL
YOU HAD YOUR HAIR GELLED UP AND WAS WEARING THIS BRAND-NAME T-SHIRT
PERSONALLY, I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED LIKE QUITE THE EAGER BEAVER
YEAH, YEAH! I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER MORE CLEARLY NOW!



* "IZAKAYA CLUB/TAVERN" LYRICS BY AKI YUJI MELODY BY UCHO KATSUO

AZUSA...?
I THINK SHE'S FINE HAVEN'T MET HER IN A WHILE BUT I HEARD SHE'S IN UNIVERSITY NOW AND LIVING ALONE
EVER SINCE KANIE LEFT ME AFTER FINDING EMPLOYMENT I HAVEN'T REALLY HAD MUCH TIME TO TALK WITH HER MUCH LESS ASK ABOUT HER YOUNGER SISTER
OH, BY KANIE I MEAN AZUSA'S FAT OLDER SISTER WHO WEARS GLASSES

Please have yourself a drink
If you don't mind,

OH, BUT I DID HEAR THAT SHE FOUND HERSELF A BOYFRIEND SOON AFTER ENTERING UNIVERSITY
AH, THAT'S TOO BAD
SINCE SHE WAS PREVIOUSLY A VIRGIN SHE'S PROBABLY DOING IT EVERY NIGHT WITH HER NEW BOYFRIEND TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME

Sure, I won't hesitate
A double bourbon for me

I ain't so tactless as to ask for your name,
nor ask about your life story

sitting beside each other at a pub~
That's right, we just happen to be
SEEMS THAT THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT TOO WELL BETWEEN YOU TWO AFTER THAT DAY...
IT WAS FRUSTRATING TO EVEN LOOK AT YOU TWO SINCE YOU GUYS WERE FIDGETING ABOUT SO MUCH AROUND EACH OTHER.
A REAL COUPLE OF VIRGINS, IF I EVER SAW ONE
In a shabby dingy izakaya,
GUYS WHO'RE VIRGINS ARE USUALLY SO ANNOYING BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL ABOUT ME, ME ME
THEY THINK THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH RIGHT ALL THE TIME
WITH THEM BRAGGING ON AND ON ABOUT ONLY THEMSELVES AND REFUSING TO LISTEN TO OTHER PEOPLE IT'S NO WONDER THEY HAVEN'T FOUND A GIRLFRIEND YET!
with no pictures, no flowers, no songs, nor fancy words~

BUT YOU KNOW, AZUSA WAS PRETTY DEPRESSED AFTER THAT DAY...
I THINK SHE REALLY LIKED YOU.
WHAT'D YOU EVEN DO TO BUM HER OUT LIKE THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

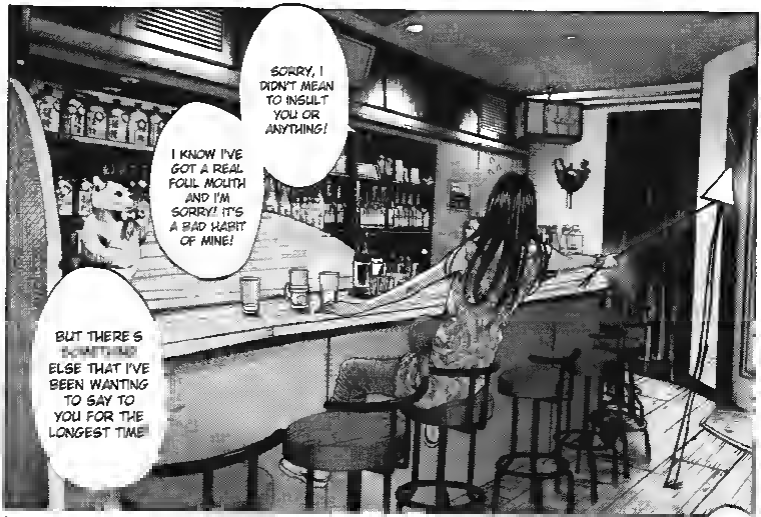
♥ It's fine, I'll just sit right here and drink the time away until the rain stops~
♠ It's raining in case you're thinking of going outside. I just heard the pitter-patter of drizzle a little while ago

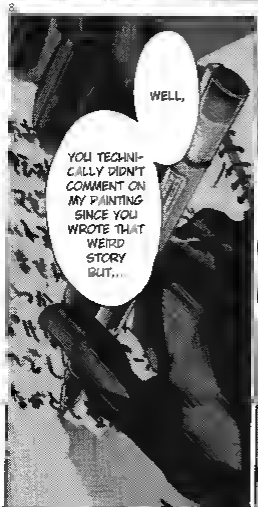
You just go on home~
♥ That don't bother me none,
♠ Then shall I accompany you until morning?
I've known some bad women in the past.

with no pictures, no flowers, no songs nor fancy words~
AH, SORRY
YOU'RE NOT STILL HUNG UP OVER AZUSA, ARE YOU?
"NO, I'M NOT HUNG UP OVER HER OR ANYTHING BUT YOUR WAY OF SPEAKING SO BLUNTLY IS MAKING ME UNCOMFORTABLE."

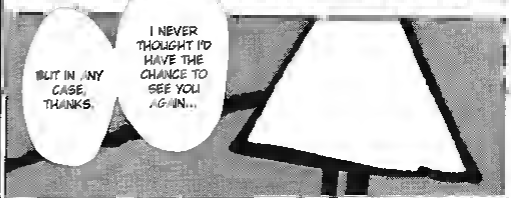
dingy izakaya~
In a shabby,
"I'M SORRY BUT I THINK I'LL LEAVE NOW."

WHA-
HEY,
WAIT! JUST WAIT A SECOND!


SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT YOU OR ANYTHING!
I KNOW I'VE GOT A REAL FOUL MOUTH AND I'M SORRY! IT'S A BAD HABIT OF MINE!
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SAY TO YOU FOR THE LONGEST TIME!


WELL,
YOU TECHNICALLY DIDN'T COMMENT ON MY PAINTING SINCE YOU WROTE THAT WEIRD STORY BUT,...

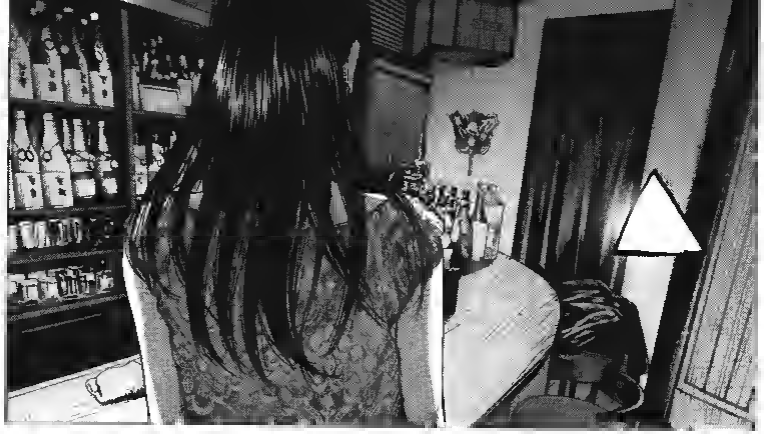
I TOLD YOU TO WRITE ANY COMMENTS OR IMPRESSIONS YOU HAD ABOUT MY PAINTING AND YOU WENT AND ENDED UP WRITING A WHOLE BUTTLOAD OF STUFF!
THE COMMENTS NOTEBOOK!
DO YOU REMEMBER?


I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
BUT IN ANY CASE, THANKS.

ABOUT THAT STORY...
IT WAS SET ON SOME ALIEN PLANET BUT THAT WAS ACTUALLY A STORY OF YOUR OWN CHILDHOOD WASN'T IT?
THE STORY COULD'VE BEEN A BIT MORE POLISHED
BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY INTERESTING

I COULD JUST VIVIDLY PICTURE YOUR STORY'S SCENES
YOU SEE, I'M A PICTURE BOOK ILLUSTRATOR AND I PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS AND STUFF

IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE WRITING THAT STORY AS AN ORIGINAL WORK?
I WANT TO BUY YOUR TALENTS, ONODERA



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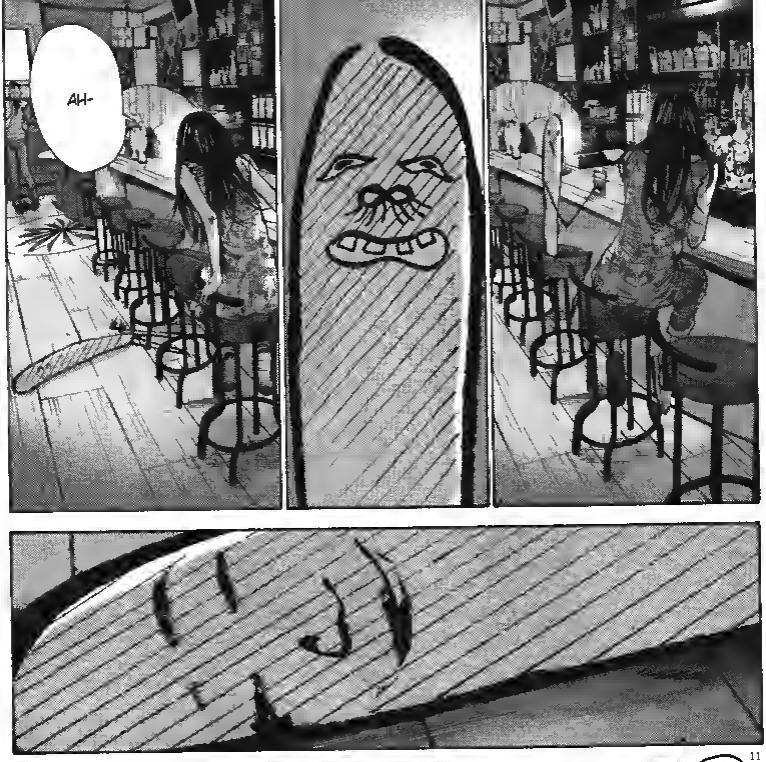
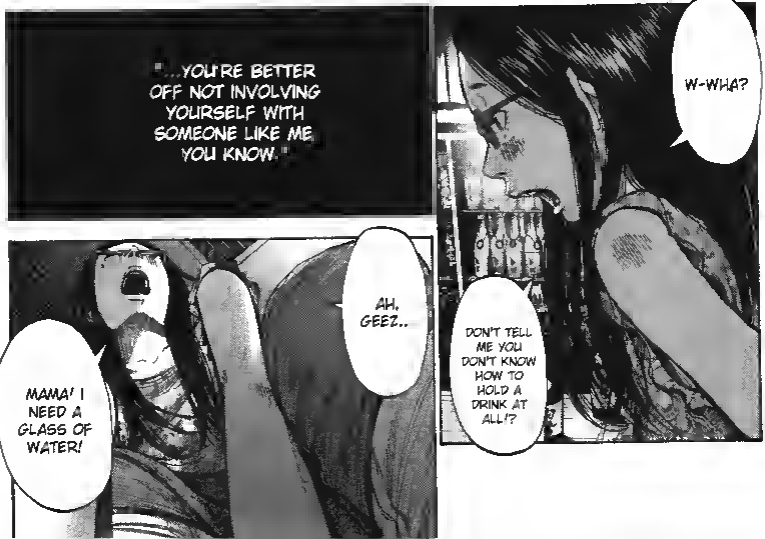
HM? YOU WANT TO DRINK?
WELL, THIS IS THE MANAGER'S BUT I SUPPOSE YOU CAN DRINK IT.
OHH SO YOU KNOW HOW TO DRINK DO YOU?

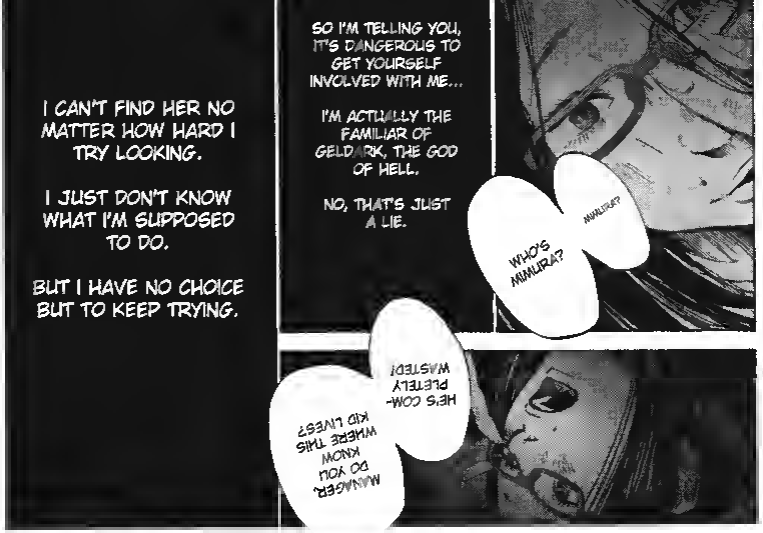

AH-


"...YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT INVOLVING YOURSELF WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME YOU KNOW."
W-WHA?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HOLD A DRINK AT ALL!?
AH, GEEZ..
MAMA! I NEED A GLASS OF WATER!

"DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT DRUNK AT ALL. BY THE WAY, WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT FOR ME TO TOUCH YOUR BREASTS?"

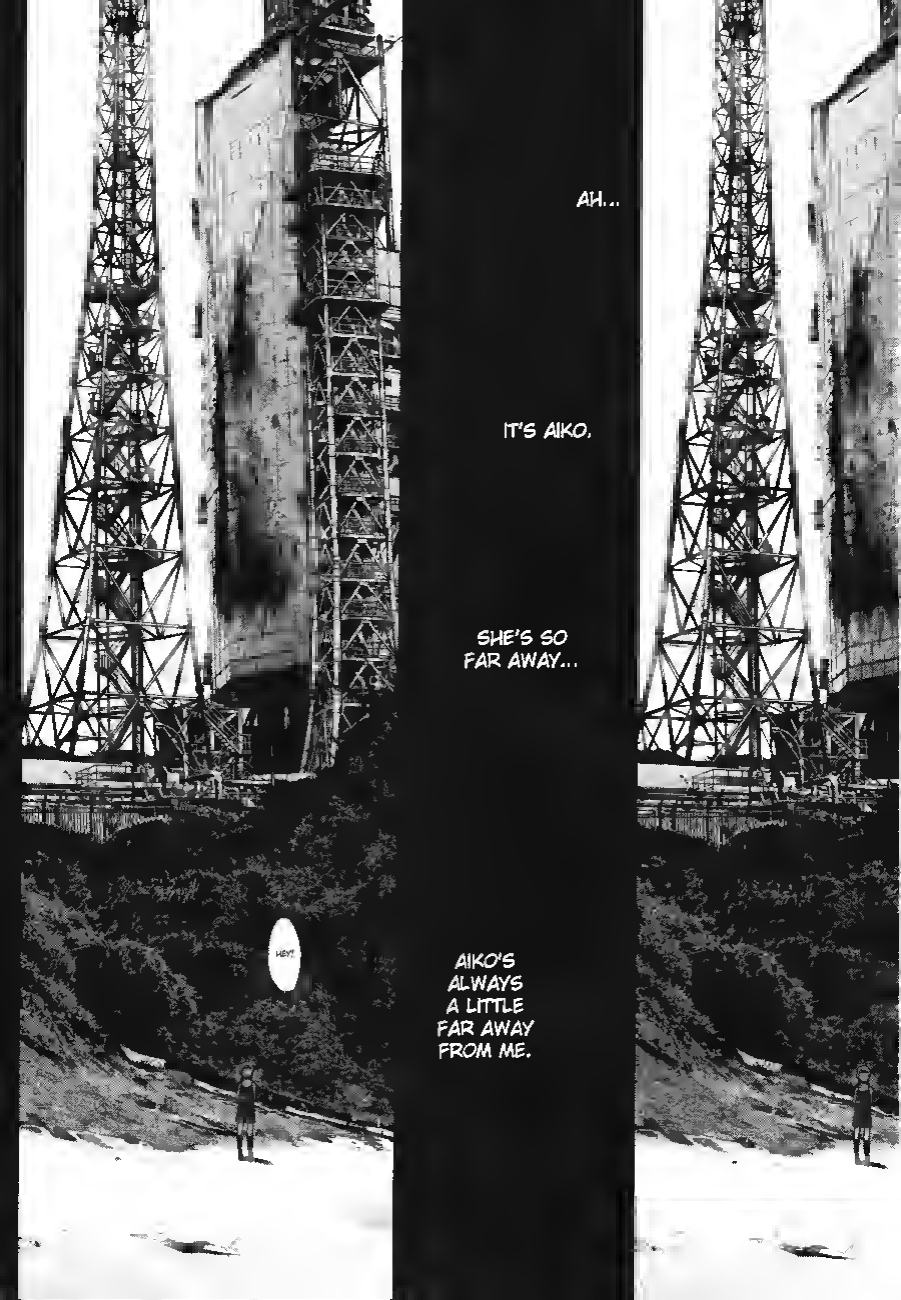
"IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE MIMURA OR ANYHTING BUT I'VE ONCE WISHED BEFORE THAT IF HE FOUND HIMSELF A GIRLFRIEND, SHE'D EITHER BE A FATASS OR AN IMAGINARY ONE. BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM HIM, ALRIGHT?"

"THAT STORY WAS NOTHING BUT A FLUKE SO I'M ONLY GOING TO GET COCKY IF YOU TRY TO COMPLIMENT ME. ALSO, I'M NOT A VIRGIN ANYMORE SO PLEASE DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN IDIOT, OKAY?"

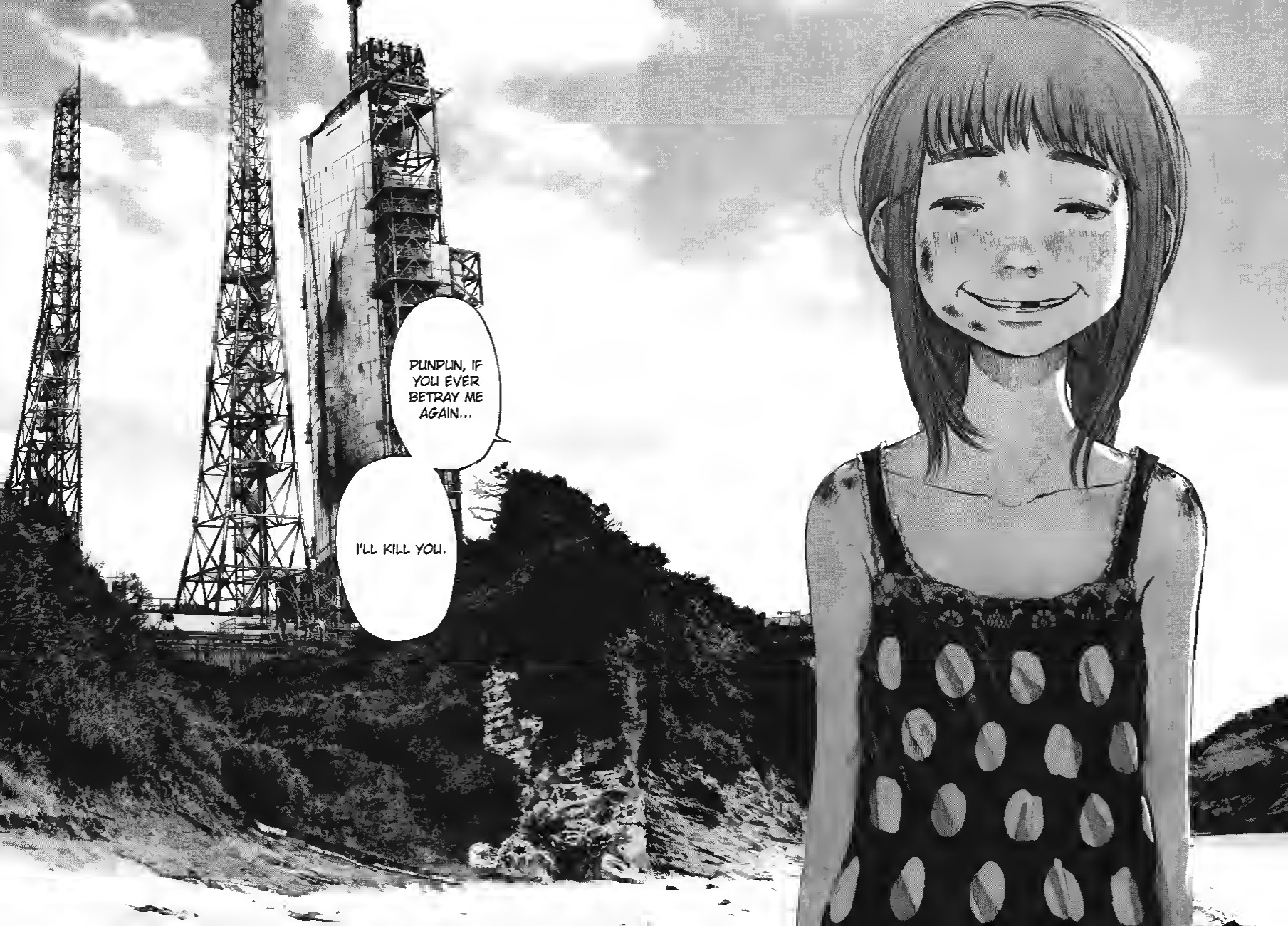

I CAN'T FIND HER NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY LOOKING.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP TRYING.
SO I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S DANGEROUS TO GET YOURSELF INVOLVED WITH ME...
I'M ACTUALLY THE FAMILIAR OF GELDARK, THE GOD OF HELL.
NO, THAT'S JUST A LIE.
MMMURA?
WHO'S MMMURA?
HE'S COMPLETELY WASTED!
MANAGER, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS KID LIVES?

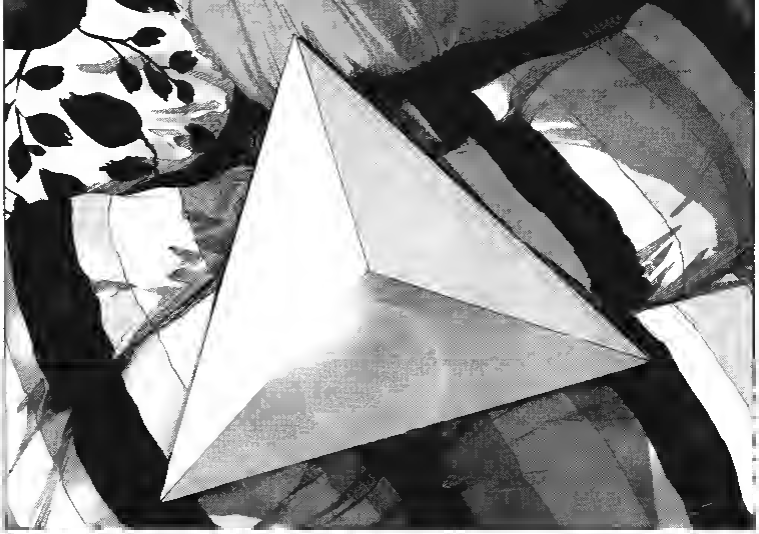
HELLO?
OZOOUU...
LIE DOWN OVER THERE.
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

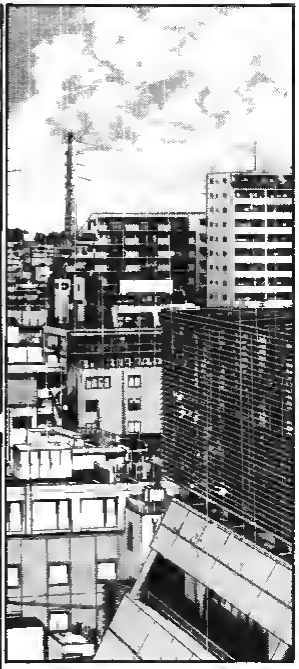
PRETENDING TO BE A CRAZY PERSON IS STRANGELY QUITE CALMING.
I'M THE WORST, AREN'T I!? HAHAHA!
HEY!

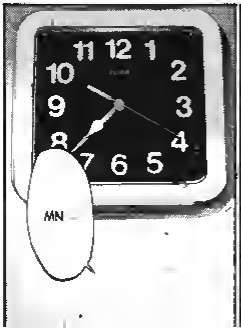

AH...
IT'S AIKO.
SHE'S SO FAR AWAY...
HEY!
AIKO'S ALWAYS A LITTLE FAR AWAY FROM ME.

MAYBE I'VE BEEN CURSED BY YOU.
HEY, AIKO.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT JUST SOME DREAM OR ILLUSION OF MINE,
I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I JUST CAN'T LIKE OTHER PEOPLE NORMALLY ANYMORE.
...PLEASE HELP ME, AIKO.


PUNPUN, IF YOU EVER BETRAY ME AGAIN...
I'LL KILL YOU.



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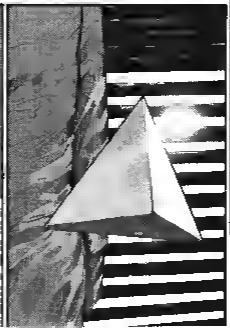

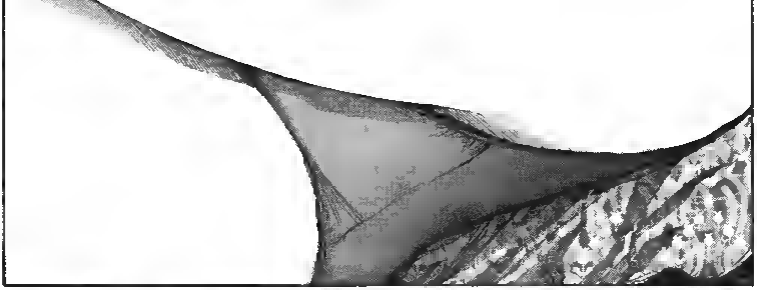

HUH?

WHA?

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